

RAMSAR CONVENTION

Ramsar National Report to COP15

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Section 1: Institutional Information

Important note: The responses below will be considered by the Convention on Wetlands Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points. All individuals listed below agree that the submitted information will be used to update the information in the Secretariat's contact database and will be published on the public website here Contacts on website.

Name of Contracting Party

The completed National Report **must be accompanied by a letter** in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP15 National Report. It can be attached to this question using the "Manage documents" function (blue symbol below) Link to sample National Report Submission Letter: https://www.ramsar.org/document/national-reports-cop15-sampleletter >>> Republic of Korea

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

ROK COP15 National Report Submission Letter.pdf

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Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP14 reporting)

A. What have been the five main achievements of the implementation of the Convention since COP14?

1)

>>> Expansion of Ramsar Sites and Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs).

2)

>>> Establishment of the 4th Master Plan for Wetland Conservation.

3)

>>> Expansion of the coastal wetland restoration area.

4)

>>> Establishment of conservation and management policies for wetlands other than Ramsar sites and WPAs. - Confirmation of the 2030 National Protected Area Expansion Roadmap, introduction of the concept of Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

5)

>>> Update the National Wetland Inventory with information from a comprehensive survey of coastal wetlands.

B. What have been the five main challenges in implementing the Convention since COP14?

1)

>>> Policy development to achieve the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (K-M GBF).

2)

>>> Climate crisis response by enhancing the value of wetlands.

3)

>>> Enhancement of wetland value through science-based wetland surveys and assessments.
 - Survey and research on wetland ecosystem services and carbon sequestration.

4)

>>> Participation and cooperation of the public, government, and business sectors in wetland conservation, management and restoration.

5)

>>> Capacity building for wetland management.

- Identification and implementation of measures for community participation in the designation and management of Ramsar Sites and WPAs

C. Please outline five priorities for implementing the Convention in your country during the coming triennium (2026-2028)

1)

>>> Expansion and effective management of WPAs, Ramsar sites, and OECMs.

2)

>>> Restoration and creation of wetlands to respond to the climate crisis.

3)

>>> Expand the use of wetland survey results.

- Formalize the National Wetland Inventory as national statistical data.

4)

>>> Enhance active participation and establish of a cooperative structure among the public, government, and business sectors for wetland conservation, management and restoration.

5)

>>> Strengthen wetland management capacity.

- Support the effective operation and expansion of Ramsar Cities.

D. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention Secretariat?

>>> Support is needed from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for research on indicators to assess the carbon storage and sequestration contribution of

the major temperate wetland types, including riverine, lacustrine and palustrine (marsh and swamp), coastal and mountain wetlands.

E. Does the Administrative Authority have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to be developed)?

>>> Wetland International's (WI) International Waterbird Census (IWC) should be

compiled as waterbird statistics linked to the National Wetland Inventory (NWI),

including Ramsar sites, Wetland Protected Areas (WPAs), Important Bird Areas (IBAs), and East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) network sites. However, in some countries, it is collected as a simple bird census, making it difficult to utilize for practical wetland bird research. International guidelines are needed to link wetland inventory and waterbird survey sites. In addition, IUCN needs to facilitate the achievement of the GBF 2030 targets by promoting the Green Listing of OECMs, including streamlining the Green Listing process for OECMs identified by each country.

F. In accordance with paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on Gender and wetlands, please provide a short description about the balance between genders participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research.

>>> As of 2023, the Central Environmental Policy Committee, a national-level

decision-making and deliberation body, has a 41.6% (52/125) representation of women among its appointed members. The Committee for Deliberation on Coastal

management, a national-level deliberation body related to coastal reclamation and

integrated coastal management, has a 50% (6/12) representation of women among its appointed members, indicating a relatively balanced gender representation. However, the proportion of women in citizen-led wetland monitoring and wetland guidance is increasing, which requires attention to balanced gender participation.

* In 2024, the Wetland Center of National Institute of Ecology's had a 68.1%

female participation among citizen environmental scientists, and the proportion of

female nature interpreters working in regional environmental offices increased from 45.11% in 2022 to 46.7% in 2024.

G. On the basis of your indications above, list possible areas where change is necessary for the achievement of gender equality.

>>> Interpreting and monitoring wetlands requires a certain level of skill that can be developed through participation in training programs. Therefore, it is necessary to provide additional training programs at times convenient to working individuals and to ensure diverse participation by gender and age.

H. Please describe lessons learnt in the context of wetlands and gender equality work in your country. >>> Gathering the views and enabling the participation of local people has been crucial in the designation and management of Ramsar sites. Designating a Ramsar site requires fostering an understanding of the value of local wetlands and offering prospects for regional revitalization through wise use. This requires the development of diverse roles and participation programs for local residents, where the role of women's organizations such as women's associations ("Bu-nyeo-hoe" in Korean), has been very important. In the case of the Dongbaekdongsan Wetland Ramsar Site, the active participation of women's associations in activities such as traditional food experiences facilitated the branding of the wetland and promoted local income generation.

I. If possible, please list gender-related policies, strategies and action plans in place relevant to wetlands in your country.

>>> The ROK government stipulates in the 'Framework Act on Gender Equality' that the proportion of each gender in official committees of the government and local governments should not exceed 60%. Although not all committees achieve the required ratio, this regulation serves as a guide for considering gender balance when forming advisory bodies for policy decisions.

J. If applicable, identify examples of strategies and actions your country is implementing to support youth participation in the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan or in wetlands management

(Resolution XIV.12 on Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth, paragraph 21). >>> Jeju Special Self-Governing Province successfully hosted the "2024 World Wetland City Youth Forum" under the theme "Youth Participation for Wetland Conservation and Sustainable Future". The forum brought together 12 wetland cities from 4 countries and served as a platform for international exchange among young people from domestic and international Ramsar cities. Jeju will continue to support these efforts to foster a youth network for wetland conservation.

Since 2022, Jeju has also been conducting an international wetland youth exchange program with Bhutan. In this program, young people from each country visit Ramsar sites in their own countries, create videos and presentations, share them online, and collaborate on slogans for wetland conservation.

The Ministry of Environment, Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia (RRC-EA),

Gyeongsangnam-do Office of Education, Jeollanam-do Office of Education, Incheon Metropolitan City Office of Education, and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Office of Education established the Korea Wetland School Network in 2024. This network aims to create a foundation for young people to understand wetlands through public education, and to identify and implement their roles in wetland conservation and management. There are also strategic plans to expand this domestic network into an Asian Wetland School Network in the future.

K. Please list the names of the organizations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report.

>>> 1) Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM)

2) National Institute of Ecology (NIE)

Section 3 - all goals: Indicator questions and further implementation information

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

Section 3 - Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 1

Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 14]

1.1 Have any actions been taken since COP14 to integrate wetland protection, wise use and restoration, or wetland benefits, into other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.1} *Please select only one per square.*

a) National policy or strategy for wetland management	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Poverty eradication strategies	 ☑ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes
c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
d) Coastal and marine resource management plans	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
e) Integrated coastal zone management plan	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
f) National forest management plan/strategies	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
g) National policies or measures on agriculture	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
i) National policies on energy and mining	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes
j) National policies on tourism	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes
k) National policies on urban development	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
l) National policies on infrastructure	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
m) National policies on industry	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3}	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality	 □ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
q) National policies, strategies or plans on sanitation	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown ☑ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes
r) National policies, strategies or plans on food security	□ Y=Not Relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned ☑ C=Partially □ B=No □ A=Yes

1.1 Additional information

>>> a) National policy or strategy for wetland management: In accordance with the []Wetlands Conservation Act[], the Korean government has formulated and is implementing the Master Plan for Wetland Conservation, a comprehensive policy framework for wetland conservation and management. Guided by the vision of "Healthy Wetlands, Innumerable Benefits", "the Fourth Master Plan for Wetland Conservation (2023-2027)" promotes policies for science-based wetland survey and assessment, effective wetland conservation and management, activation of wise use of wetlands, and strengthening of cooperative governance for wetland management. b) Poverty eradication strategies:

As an OECD country, wetland-related poverty reduction policies are not addressed at the national level. c) Water resource management and water efficiency plans:

The Ministry of Environment has prepared comprehensive water management plans

(2021-2030) for the four major river basins (i.e., Han River, Nakdong River, Geum River, and Yeongsan River) to implement the Master Plan for National Water Management established in 2021. The vision of these plans is "Safe and Healthy Rivers Coexisting with Nature and People" with improvement measures to restore the health of aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands.

These plans also include promoting the restoration of natural river habitat and river channel morphology of natural rivers.

d) Coastal and marine resource management plans:

Following the inscription of Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats, on the UNESCO World Heritage List in July 2021, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the ROK established the Integrated Management Plan for the Getbol World Heritage Site (2023-2027) in 2023. Under the vision of "Getbol, a World Heritage Site that the world and the future can enjoy together," the plan includes six strategies: ① enhancing the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Site, ② strengthening conservation measures for the World Heritage Site, ③ harmonizing with local communities, ④ expanding communication and cooperation with the world, ⑤ developing management capacity for the World Heritage Site, and ⑥ conducting

field management through the Conservation Headquarters and regional centers. Through this Plan, strategies and policies for the protection and management of coastal wetlands as Ramsar and World Heritage Sites have been strengthened.

In 2024, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries established the Marine Biodiversity

Conservation Measures" as part of its mid- to long-term national planning process under Article 38 of the "Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act". This comprehensive plan aims to systematically conserve marine biodiversity. Guided by the vision of "Realizing the Value of Marine Biodiversity through Conservation and Sustainable Use," the plan includes four key strategies: 1) conservation and enhancement of marine biodiversity, 2) management of risk factors to marine biodiversity, 3) sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and 4) international

cooperation and awareness.

Key actions include the designation of large-scale Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) of more than 1000[], with the goal of protecting 30% of Korea's marine area by 2030 (currently 1.8%).

To mitigate the negative impacts of harmful marine organisms such as jellyfish and enhance management capacity, the plan will identify 100 new species with high potential for future introduction and establish rapid monitoring and response systems by 2030.

In addition, the ministry formulated the "2nd Master Plans for Managing Marine Fishery Bio-Resources" with the vision of "Realizing a Blue Economy Based on Marine Bio by 2030".

This plan promotes carbon neutrality through initiatives such as the development of bioplastics using seaweed, the development of marine purification biotechnology, the use of marine biomaterials, the analysis of the functionality of invasive species such as Spartina alterniflora for potential biomaterial applications, the promotion of skilled workforce, and the raising of public awareness.

e) Integrated coastal zone management plan:

With the enactment of the Act on Marine Spatial Planning and Management in 2018, the first Marine Spatial Master Plan (2019-2028) and regional management plans were established for areas from the coastline to the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. According to the plan, the marine area is divided into nine zones (fishing activity protection zone, marine tourism zone, military activity zone, mineral resources development zone, environmental and ecological management zone, port and navigation zone, energy development zone, research, education and conservation zone, and safety management zone) to promote integrated

management tailored to the characteristics of each zone.

In addition, the Act on the Sustainable Management and Restoration of Tidal Flats (Gaetbeol) and Adjacent Areas Thereof was enacted in 2020, and the First Basic Plan for the Management and Restoration of Tidal Flats (2021-2025) was established for the comprehensive and systematic management of tidal flats. This plan includes conducting surveys to assess the current status of tidal flats and implementing a tidal flat grading system (5 grades) for systematic management.

f) National forest management plan/strategies:

The Korea Forest Service has established the "6th Forest Master Plan (2018-2037)", a comprehensive plan for forest resources, forest industry, forest welfare, forest protection, forest ecosystems, mountains and mountain villages, international forest cooperation, and forest administration. This plan includes the development and distribution of a "National Forest Water Map" to visualize the spatial distribution of forest water storage functions to improve forest water resources, derive management strategies for forest watersheds upstream of water sources to prepare for extreme weather events (floods, droughts, etc.), mitigate the drying up of mountain streams, and preserve forest biodiversity.

In addition, the Second National Forest Expansion Plan (2019-2028) was established to increase the national forest area to 1.79 million hectares, or 28.3 percent of the total forest area, by 2028. Of this, 144,000 hectares of natural environment conservation forests and 4,000 hectares of water supply protection forests will be purchased to enhance the ecological and environmental functions of the land, thereby protecting healthy forest ecosystems and creating a pleasant natural environment.

g) National policies or measures on agriculture:

The 2023-2027 Development Plan for Agriculture, Rural Community and Food Industry introduces a carbonneutral direct payment system to compensate for income losses due to the implementation of low-carbon farming practices, and expands the selective direct payment system to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen environmental conservation. This plan aims to increase the proportion of organic farmland to 10% by 2027 (4.9% in 2021) and expand the consumption of eco-friendly agricultural products through measures such as integrating nutrition

support projects for elementary schools.

The Ministry of Environment plans to continue implementing the Payment for Ecosystem Services program, which has been in effect since 2021. This program provides a compensation system for agricultural practices that maintain the wetland characteristics of rice fields, such as fallowing, winter flooding, the creation of small ponds, and environmentally friendly cultivation methods.

h) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD:

The "5th National Biodiversity Strategy (2024-2028)" aims to secure 30% of the national territory as protected areas (including OECMs) by 2030 by identifying ecologically valuable areas, improving management systems, and increasing benefits to local communities. The strategy also includes identifying 20 candidate sites for tidal flat restoration by 2028 and restoring 6 tidal flats and salt marshes annually, with a target of restoring 115[] by 2030. To enhance carbon sequestration through nature-based solutions, the strategy will develop a new method for assessing wetlands as carbon sinks, improve the wetland conservation grading system, expand the creation of integrated multifunctional (carbon sequestration, water purification, disaster prevention, etc.) riparian ecological belts by creating wetlands on dam floodplains and purchased riparian buffer zones, and strengthen marine carbon sequestration functions through salt marsh creation and tidal flat restoration. The strategy also includes pilot projects to restore river floodplains and side channels using nature-based solutions under the aquatic ecosystem restoration program, and increased support for Ramsar sites and Ramsar cities.

I) National policies on energy and mining:

In July 2022, the Ministry of Environment revised the guidelines for environmental impact assessment consultation for floating solar power projects. These guidelines recommend a comprehensive approach to environmental impact assessment that considers various factors in site selection, such as protected areas, legally protected species, impacts on natural landscapes, and social consensus. This will ensure that floating solar power projects prioritize environmental benefits and minimize impacts on water quality and aquatic ecosystems. The guidelines will be reviewed every three years for necessary improvements. j) National policies on tourism:

The "4th Master Plan for Development of Tourism (2022-2031)" outlines plans to promote ecotourism that balances conservation and use through the development of ecologically restored tourism sites. This includes restoring tidal flats and inland wetlands, restoring biodiversity (migratory birds, seals, etc.), and enhancing the value of ecological resources to create new ecotourism sites. The plan also promotes measures to enhance the attractiveness of existing ecotourism sites, conserve ecological resources, develop minimal infrastructure for landscape preservation, design ecotourism programs, and conduct promotional activities for sustainable

ecotourism. In addition, the plan includes the promotion of future-oriented ecotourism environments by integrating various ecological activities, such as marine debris collection, pollution reduction campaigns, and nature education, into tourism programs.

Since 2013, the Ministry of Environment has been operating the ecotourism region system under the Natural Environment Conservation Act to mitigate the negative impacts of large-scale group tourism on the natural environment and local communities. As of 2024, the Ministry has designated 35 ecotourism regions, of which 22 are wetland regions.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries also provides support for the promotion of tidal flat ecotourism in the Act on the Sustainable Management and Restoration of Tidal Flats (Gaetbeol) and Adjacent Areas Thereof. In 2023, a nationwide survey of marine ecotourism resources was conducted, on the basis of which the "Marine Ecotourism Activation Promotion Strategy" was established in 2024. This strategy proposes the establishment of regional marine ecotourism centers, the development of region-specific content, the establishment of operational bases, the training of professional personnel, and the establishment of public-private participation frameworks to improve and expand opportunities for the ecological and socio-economic utilization of marine resources.

In addition, the 2022 amendment to the Conservation and Management of Marine

Ecosystems Act introduced the concept of "National Marine Ecological Park" as a means of conserving the value of marine resources and ensuring sustainable use and management. In 2023, the Enforcement Decree of the same Act was amended to establish specific procedures for designation and operation. In 2024, a medium-term plan (2025-2033) for the establishment of National Marine Ecological Parks will be developed to promote ecotourism linked to the conservation of well-managed marine ecosystems and regional

development, with the parks serving as regional hubs.

k) National policies on urban development:

The "5th Comprehensive National Land Plan (2020-2040)" sets out key policy goals for creating a clean and environmentally friendly national territory and strengthening the mountain-river-sea environmental management network. This includes defining the specific spatial scope of the National Ecological Axis (ecological corridors), legalizing its restoration and management system, and improving national ecological functions and connectivity. In principle, the National Ecological Axis and core conservation areas will be preserved, while restoration efforts will focus on fragmented and degraded areas to improve ecological functions. To implement integrated environmental planning and strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation, the plan will promote consistency among various spatial plans, including the Comprehensive National Land Plan, the Comprehensive National Environmental Plan, the Marine Spatial Master Plan, the Coastal Management Plan, and the Mountain Management Plan. In addition, the plan aims to restore the hydrological regime and improve natural and ecological health by strengthening the link between upstream and downstream areas, rivers, estuaries, and coasts.

The ROK has established the "Marine Ecological Axis (corridor) Management Plan

(2023-2027)" to systematically and integrally manage and conserve marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity. Marine ecological axis refers to axes that connect important areas or sea areas, such as major habitats, spawning grounds, and migration routes of marine organisms, with ecological structures and functions related to tidal flats, coasts, islands, and underwater areas. The five major marine ecological axes are ^① West Sea Tidal Flat Conservation axis, ^② South Sea Island Ecosystem Conservation axis, ^③ East Coast Ecosystem Conservation axis, ^④ Migratory Marine Protected Species Conservation axis, and ^⑤ Climate Change Observation axis.

Under this plan, key tasks will be promoted under three strategies: strengthening connectivity, expanding management centers, and establishing cooperative systems for each of the five marine ecological axes. In particular, the plan includes expanding the designation of Marine Protected Areas to strengthen the connectivity of marine ecological axes (corridors); improving the functions of key ecosystems by restoring damaged areas and habitats; expanding management, research and education centers for each marine ecological axis; and establishing regional management systems. I) National policies on infrastructure:

The Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) system is operated under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act. The projects covered by SEIA include infrastructure development such as urban development, industrial sites and industrial complexes, energy development, port construction, road construction, water resources development, railway (including urban railway) construction, airport construction, river utilization and development, land reclamation and public water reclamation, tourism complex development, mountain development, and special area development. Key areas for consideration during SEIA include Grade 1 and 2 areas in the ecological naturalness map, areas within 500 meters of the boundaries of wetland protected areas and their surrounding management zones, wintering waterfowl simultaneous census areas, inland wetland survey areas, ecosystem change observation areas, mountain wetlands, lagoons, habitats of endangered wild species, and 50-100m catchment areas from the boundaries of both sides of national and local rivers.

In addition, the "Marine Use Impact Assessment Act" was enacted in 2024 to conserve the marine environment and promote the sustainable use of the marine ecosystem. This law establishes the necessary matters for predicting and assessing the appropriateness of marine use and the impact on the marine environment in advance, and for managing and supervising projects that use and develop the marine ecosystem.

m) National policies on industry:

The Industrial Development Act emphasizes sustainable management and requires companies to be environmentally friendly and socially responsible. Accordingly, as part of its sustainable management program, LG Chem is restoring seagrass beds in the waters off Yeosu, South Jeolla Province, near its business site and plans to expand the area to 100,000[] (the size of 14 soccer fields) by 2026. In addition, support measures such as tax incentives under the Act on the National Trsut of Cultural Heritages and Natural Environment Assets are being implemented to encourage active participation by the industrial sector in the conservation of natural

environmental assets, including wetlands.

n) National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3}:

The "3rd Basic Plan for Fisheries Resources Management (2021-2025)" sets out five key initiatives under the vision of "Sustainable Fisheries Resources, Productive Fishing Grounds." First, the plan will gradually expand the proportion of catch subject to Total Allowable Catch (TAC) management. Second, it sets annual closed seasons and minimum size limits for depleted fish stocks to promote their recovery. Third, starting in 2021, the plan expands the scope and items of investigation, including ecological information and regional characteristics of fish species, to provide a basis for ecosystem-based fishery resource surveys and assessments and to develop an integrated ecosystem-based resource assessment system. Fourth, the plan promotes measures such as the establishment of spawning and nursery grounds and seaweed forests that reflect the ecological characteristics of fish species and marine systems, and the promotion of biodegradable fishing gear to improve the habitat and ecological environment in coastal and offshore areas. Fifth, the plan promotes the establishment of a recreational culture linked to the protection of fishery

resources, the establishment of a traffic light system for each species of fish, and the formulation of a comprehensive plan to promote autonomous fishery management to spread a participatory culture of fishery resource protection.

A complete revision of the Fisheries Act, focusing on full life-cycle management of fishing gear, TAC-based fisheries management, and improvements to the fisheries reporting system, came into effect in January 2023. This revised legislation aims to prevent overfishing through TAC-based management and to prevent marine pollution and damage to fishery resources by introducing full life-cycle management and a fishing gear ownership tracking system.

o) National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management:

The 1st Master Plan for Managing Marine Garbage and Contaminated Marine Sediments (2021-2030) sets targets to reduce marine plastic waste by 60% and marine contaminated sediments by 50% by 2030. To achieve these targets, measures will be implemented to prevent the dumping of marine buoys at sea and promote eco-friendly buoy alternatives, monitor estuaries to prevent the inflow of waste via rivers, and establish and operate an inter-ministerial Marine Garbage Management Committee. In addition, efforts to reduce marine sediment pollution will include developing a method for assessing marine sediment pollution and strengthening management prioritization and evaluation of cleanup and restoration projects. The National Comprehensive Investigation into Marine Ecosystems (tidal flat ecological survey) is being conducted to study the sedimentation process of major tidal flat areas.

Additionally, under the Marine Environment Management Act, heavily polluted sea areas are designated as specially-managed sea areas, and the "Total Pollutant Load Management System" is implemented to regulate the total amount of pollutants discharged by industries in these designated areas. Masan Bay adopted the Total Pollutant Load Management System in 2007 and has made efforts to improve seawater quality. As a result, the marine ecosystem is recovering and the habitat of legally protected species (Clithon retropictus, Sesarmops intermedius and Lutra lutra; Eurasian otter) has been confirmed in Masan Bay, including the surrounding Bongam Tidal Flat. In Lake Sihwa, continued efforts to improve the marine environment, including the Total Pollutant Load Management System and the establishment of

the Pragmites Wetland Park, have led to the reappearance of marine protected species such as Uca lactea and Paraleonnates uschakovi. Under the Water Environment Conservation Act, development plans and facilities above a certain size are required to submit a Non-Point Source Pollution Reduction Plan, which includes a plan for the installation of non-point source pollution reduction facilities such as artificial wetlands. In addition, the Act on Water Management and Resident Support in the Han River, Nakdong River, Geum River, Youngsan River, and Seomjin River Basins recognizes the creation of artificial wetlands, vegetated waterways, and vegetation filtration zones as non-point source pollution reduction projects to protect water sources. p) National policies on wastewater management and water quality:

The Water Environment Conservation Act sets effluent quality standards for public wastewater treatment facilities, with different standards for different regions. In particular, riparian buffer zones within the five major national river basins are subject to more stringent standards than other areas. In addition, water quality is managed by dividing the water system into unit watersheds, establishing water quality objectives for each watershed, and setting a total pollutant load limit within those objectives to ensure compliance.

q) National policies, strategies or plans on sanitation:

To manage drinking water quality, the government is expanding its policy of riparian

filtration. This method involves storing surface water in aquifers along riverbanks for an extended period of time, allowing natural geological filtration to reduce pollution prior to extraction. This approach is emerging as a solution to ensure stable water resources amid challenges in developing surface water sources due to increasing pollution. Riparian (river bank) filtration offers benefits such as buffering against sudden surface water pollution events through the alluvial layer and reducing the need for water treatment processes by naturally removing E. coli, common bacteria and suspended solids.

r) National policies, strategies or plans on food security:

Agricultural Promotion Areas are designated under the Farmland Act. These areas are designated by provincial governors with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for the efficient use and conservation of farmland. With the rapid loss of farmland due to urbanization, these areas are managed to ensure food security. As these areas are primarily used for rice cultivation, they contribute to food production while also functioning as rice paddy wetlands, which play a critical role in securing water resources and enhancing biodiversity.

Target 2

Water userespects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 7, Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

2.1 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands and the additional guidance on tools and methodologies been brought to the attention of national ministries and/or agencies at different levels of territorial organizations (Resolutions VIII.1, VIII.2)? $\{2.1\}$ \square A=Yes

2.1 Additional Information

>>> Under the Water Environment Conservation Act, a comprehensive national water environment information network is being established and operated. This network collects and analyzes water quality data through continuous monitoring, aquatic ecosystem surveys, assessment of aquatic ecosystem health, investigation of pollution sources, and assessment of pollutant levels and discharges from wastewater discharge facilities. Article 10-2 of the Act requires the establishment and reporting of target water quality standards for each water system impact zone, lake, and marsh subject to investigation and measurement. Achievement of these standards is evaluated periodically, and risk assessments are conducted when water pollution in rivers, lakes, and marshes poses a threat to humans or ecosystems. In addition, surveys, measurements, and analyses of major lakes and marshes are conducted periodically to assess water use, water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, pollution source distribution and pollutant loads.

In 2024, the "Guidelines for Calculating Instream Flow Requirements" were enacted to determine the minimum flow necessary to maintain the ecological functions and condition of the river ecosystem. These guidelines consider factors such as water quality conservation, aquatic ecosystem protection, river scenery preservation, and saltwater intrusion prevention.

Specifically, "aquatic ecosystem protection" refers to maintaining appropriate water depths and velocities to preserve habitats for aquatic flora and fauna. The calculation of instream flow requirements takes into account various factors: the water quality status of the river, water quality protection measures and projects, endangered and legally protected species inhabiting the river area, indicator species, cultural preservation of tourist and scenic spots, groundwater use, and other survey results on the natural and social environmental characteristics of the river. In addition, in 2023, the National Institute of Environmental Research issued guidelines for

calculating environmental flow requirements, outlining procedures such as river condition surveys, selection of representative points and fish species, field monitoring, and determination of environmental flow requirements.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries operates a marine environmental monitoring network of 425 stations throughout the country's coastal areas, collecting data from two layers of water (surface and bottom) to monitor the state of the marine environment and sources of pollution in coastal and offshore areas. Through this monitoring network, the Ministry collects information on water quality, marine sediments, and marine organisms.

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands? {2.2} ☑ C=Partially

2.2 Additional Information

>>> In order to establish a basis for flow management that takes ecological functions into account, Section 51 of the Rivers Act was used to determine and notify the minimum flows required to maintain the normal function and condition of rivers. In addition, the Water Environment Conservation Act was amended in 2017 to provide a legal basis for ensuring environmental flows. Based on this, environmental flow assessments and verification assessments have been conducted since 2018 to strengthen the scientific and systematic approach to calculating environmental flows. In 2023, guidelines for calculating environmental flows were issued. These guidelines emphasize the consideration of representative fish species and river characteristics in ecologically valuable river sections when determining environmental flows, which are then incorporated into the operation plans of dams, weirs, and reservoirs. The Korea Water Resources Corporation conducted structural suitability assessments of flow delivery systems and water depths for 39 artificial wetlands in 15 dams. More than 50% of these artificial wetlands received ratings of "fair" or lower for factors such as flow supply systems, water depth, length-to-width ratio, and channel slope.

2.3 Have the designation or management of Wetlands of International Importance ("Ramsar Sites") improved the sustainable use of water (e.g. reduced drainage, reduced use of pesticides, controlled pollution etc.) in your country?

☑ C=Partially

2.3 Additional Information

>>> Sustainable water use has been promoted through various initiatives such as the Payment for Ecosystem Services Program and the Total Pollutant Load Management System. In the case of Janghang Wetland and Bamseom Island in the Han River, the second phase of the Total Pollutant Load Management System has been implemented. This includes stricter effluent discharge standards for four water recycling centers (compared to legal standards), installation of combined sewer overflow (CSO) retention basins, and water quality monitoring through a network of 82 water quality monitoring stations. In addition, the Payment for Ecosystem Services program has minimized the use of pesticides on agricultural land around the Han River estuary through contractual agreements.

Similar contractual agreements under the Payment for Ecosystem Services program have also minimized

pesticide use in other Ramsar sites, including the Nakdong River Estuary, Upo Wetland, Mungyeong Doline Wetland, and Suncheon Bay.

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes? {2.3}

☑ C=Partially

2.4 Additional Information

>>> To improve the sustainability of water use (or water resource allocation), government ministries have jointly developed the "1st Master Plan for National Water Management (2021-2030)". This plan outlines innovative policies such as an integrated approach to improving the soundness of the water cycle and minimizing vulnerability to climate change throughout the water management process. Specific measures include scientifically identifying carbon emissions from water production and supply, establishing a management system that links water demand management targets with carbon reduction targets, and strengthening the groundwater management system by gradually moving from the current permit and reporting system to a permit-only system to address issues such as groundwater overuse and pollution. This will include surveying and registering unregistered groundwater facilities. In 2022, the "Regulations on the Use and Management of River Water" was revised to set standards, procedures, and validity periods for river water use permits. The aim is to prevent indiscriminate use of river water and ensure the sustainable maintenance of rivers.

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed $\{2.4\}$ \square A=Yes

2.5 Additional Information

>>> Pyeongdume Wetland, a typical marsh-type mountain wetland in Mudeungsan National Park, experienced significant damage to its former agricultural waterways due to heavy rains in 2021. This damage, coupled with drying around the affected area, increased the risk of the entire wetland drying out. To maintain the wetland's hydrological status, a terrain-adaptive vegetation roll (coir roll) method was implemented to control soil moisture content and flow rate. This involved strategically placing coir rolls to regulate water flow and velocity around the wetland. In addition, a silt impermeable wall technique was used to stabilize and restore the terrain in areas prone to erosion and damage from heavy rainfall.

2.6 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? {2.8} \square A=Yes

2.6 Additional Information

>>> The Design Guidelines for Public Wastewater Treatment Facilities (Ministry of Environment, 2024) require the installation of buffer storage facilities during the construction of wastewater pipelines. According to the Enforcement Regulations of the Water Environment Conservation Act and the Installation and Operation Standards for Buffer Storage Facilities, these facilities must prevent direct inflow of accidental wastewater discharges into rivers and reduce non-point source pollution during rainfall. They must also comply with the Installation Standards for Nonpoint Source Pollution Reduction Facilities.

Nonpoint source pollution reduction facilities are categorized in the Enforcement Rules of the Water Environment Conservation Act as natural and engineered facilities. Natural facilities include retention facilities (e.g., retention ponds), constructed wetlands, infiltration facilities (e.g., detention ponds, infiltration trenches, etc.), and vegetation-based facilities (e.g., vegetated filter strips, vegetated waterways, etc.). In coastal wetlands, a representative example is Shinan, a Ramsar wetland and UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site, which consists of islands and has a lower rate of sewage treatment facilities than other regions. To compensate, Shinan is making efforts to improve river water quality and restore aquatic ecosystems by creating natural purification-type ecological wetlands in village ditches and providing aquatic plants and beneficial microorganisms.

Target 3

Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 7, 10, 15, 16 and 18]

3.1 Has your country put in place policies, including incentives, guidelines or other instruments to encourage the private sector to apply the wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in activities and investments related to wetlands? $\{3.1\}$ \square A=Yes

3.1 Additional Information

Please specify if it was applied for policy formulation or in implementation of good practice. >>> Previously, biodiversity management contracts in Korea had limitations in promoting private sector engagement in the conservation and enhancement of ecosystem services due to restrictions on target areas and eligible activities. To encourage voluntary private sector participation, the "Enforcement Devree of the Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity" was amended in 2020 to introduce the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) contract system. This amendment expanded the scope of target areas and diversified the types of activities to allow compensation for various activities to maintain and improve ecosystem services.

The scope of target areas was expanded to include not only legally designated protected areas (Wetland Protected Areas, Ecological and Scenery Conservation Area, natural parks, etc.), but also Ramsar sites, UNESCO biosphere reserves, and riparian buffer zones. In addition, the number of eligible types of activities was expanded from five to 22, including the creation and management of wetlands and the creation and management of retention ponds. Guidelines on the PES contracting system were also disseminated. To promote the wise use of ecological resources by local communities, the Ministry of

Environment established the Ecotourism Region system and has been implementing it since 2013. As of 2024, 35 sites across the country have been designated as ecotourism regions, 22 of which are wetland ecosystems. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and

Tourism, issued the "Regulations on Certification of Tidal Flat Ecotourism" and the "Public Notice on Designation and Operation of Tidal Flat Eco-villages" in 2021. Following a nationwide survey of marine ecological resources, the Ministry formulated the "Marine Ecotourism Activation Strategy" in 2024 and is currently conducting pilot projects using ecological resources for cultural and experiential programs in Gochang and Seocheon tidal flats.

The Agricultural Environmental Protection Program promotes the public benefits of

agriculture, raises environmental protection awareness among farmers, and lays the foundation for the expansion of environmentally friendly agriculture through various environmental protection activities such as soil, water, ecology, and landscape conservation at the regional level. Key activities include creating and managing small agricultural ponds ("[]]") to conserve the biodiversity of agro-ecosystems and secure agricultural water in case of drought, providing food for migratory birds, and collectively collecting and separating agricultural waste. Starting with five villages in 2018, the program expanded to 65 villages nationwide by 2023. An annual competition recognizes outstanding practices and achievements, which are then shared and promoted through case studies and promotional videos.

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken any activities or actions for the conservation, wise use, and management of (a) Ramsar Sites or (b) wetlands in general? {3.2} *Please select only one per square.*

a) Ramsar Sites	□ Y=Not relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Wetlands in general	□ Y=Not relevant □ X=Unknown □ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

3.2 Additional information

>>> a) Ramsar Sites:

Several Ramsar sites, including Upo Wetland, Dongbaekdongsan Wetland, High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam, Suncheon Bay, Gochang Ungok Wetland, Mulyeongari-oreum, and Seocheon Tidal Flat, are either designated or have applied for designation as Ramsar Wetland Cities. These sites operate Ramsar Wetland City Regional Management Committees composed of both public and private stakeholders. These committees are involved in various activities, including wetland ecological monitoring, wetland restoration and damage monitoring, decision-making on urban planning that may affect wetlands, and income generation projects using wetland ecosystem services.

The Korea National Trust has implemented pesticide-free rice cultivation, ecological education programs for citizens, and pesticide-free rice sales at the Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat, a Ramsar Site designated in 2008.

In addition, S-OIL donated 150 million won to the Han River Basin Environmental Office to support the conservation of the Janghang Wetland (designated as a Ramsar site in May 2021) and the restoration of otter habitats in commemoration of World Wetlands Day. b) Wetlands in general: Citizen groups and ecological interpreters are actively involved in monitoring wetland species and conducting surveillance activities against wetland development in general wetlands.

Voluntary monitoring by the private sector plays a crucial role in identifying additional wetlands. Recently, some wetlands have established ecotourism advisory bodies with local residents to pursue incomegenerating projects using wetland resources.

The role of the private sector is also expanding in international exchanges for wetland conservation, such as the Korea-Japan Wetland Forum organized by the Korea Wetland NGO Network and the exchange program between Korean tidal flats and the Wadden Sea conducted by coastal wetland conservation organizations.

In addition, an online platform (https://www.getbolkeepers.org) is operated to manage data collected through the citizen science program of tidal flats, including Ramsar sites and other common tidal flats.

LG Chem, a private company, formalized its plan to implement the "Blue Carbon Seagrass Habitat Restoration Project" from 2023 to 2026 and transplanted 50,000 seagrass seedlings near Daegyeongdo Island in Yeosu in 2023.

Kia Motors also signed a business agreement with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to promote a blue carbon cooperation project in 2022, and is conducting pilot projects to restore natural vegetation in four tidal flats.

In addition, KT&G has been working with the National Institute of Ecology since 2023 to carry out restoration work to improve the Janggumegi Wetland, where habitats are threatened by soil runoff and erosion from surrounding roads. This project included restoring waterways, repairing eroded slopes, and restoring abandoned rice fields. In 2024, the Ministry of Environment designated Janggumegi Wetland as a Wetland Protected Areas.

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? $\{3.3\}$

3.3 Additional information

Please specify the types of incentive measures (loans, tax breaks, or others).

>>> The Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity was amended in 2019 to expand and reorganize the existing biodiversity management contract system into the "Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Contract System." This system allows for contracts with owners, users, or managers of land or public waters designated as protected areas, including Ecological and Scenery Conservation Area, Wetland Protected Areas, nature parks, wildlife (special) reserves, UNESCO biosphere reserves, Ramsar sites, and water source protection areas.

These contracts may include changes in agricultural practices, reduction of chemical use, creation of wetlands, and other land management practices. Through these contracts, the government can compensate for the costs and losses associated with maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services. In 2024, the introduction of a payment scheme for marine ecosystem services was included in the "Marine Biodiversity Conservation Measures" under the Act on the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems. The PES contract system is a financial incentive measure in which the government provides direct financial support to landowners and managers who undertake activities that promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which lead to degradation or loss of wetlands? $\{3.4\}$

3.4 Additional Information

Please specify the actions that have been taken to remove perverse incentive measures (e.g. removal of subsidies for agricultural expansion) and provide the source links or upload the source documents here.

>>> Efforts are underway to remove incentives that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands, but concrete results have not yet been achieved. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs are engaged in ongoing consultations to shift to biodiversity-prioritized agricultural practices or transform agricultural methods using biological species.

However, progress is being made in reforming incentive systems to better support ecological conservation. A significant shift is taking place in the agricultural sector with direct payment schemes in the public interest. These programs are moving away from the traditional direct payment system, which focused primarily on agricultural production, toward a system that rewards farmers for meeting various obligations that contribute to public welfare and environmental protection. These obligations include:

-Maintaining the ecological functions of agricultural land to protect ecosystems

-Meeting standards for pesticide and fertilizer use to protect the natural environment

-Participating in community activities such as agricultural waste collection

-Prohibiting the introduction of invasive species

-Providing basic training for farmers

This shift in the direct payment system aims to incentivize sustainable agricultural practices that contribute to wetland conservation by reducing reliance on potentially harmful inputs and encouraging environmentally responsible behavior.

Target 4

Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 6]

4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {4.1}
 ☑ A=Yes

4.1 Additional information

>>> Nationwide surveys actively monitor the distribution and spread of alien species, allowing effective tracking of their presence and range expansion. In addition, the Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity identifies and notifies invasive alien species that pose a high risk to the ecosystem as 'ecosystem-disrupting species' (38 species), 'species suspected of endangering ecosystem' (4 species), 'species requiring caution in introduction' (706 species).

* Ministry of the Environment Public Notice No. 2023-228 for the designated list of ecosystem-disrupting species.

* Ministry of Environment Public Notice No. 2021-177 for the designated list of species suspected of endangering ecosystem.

In addition, the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act designates and manages 'Marine ecosystem disrupting species' (1 species), 'Harmful marine organisms' (18 species).

* Article 5-2 of the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act [effective date: January 20, 2022]

 \ast Annex 5 of the Regulations on the Implementation of the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act.

4.2 Has your country adopted any national policies, strategies, or guidelines on invasive species control and management that are relevant for wetlands? {4.2} ☑ A=Yes

4.2 Additional information

>>> According to the Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity, the Korean government formulates and implements the "National Biodiversity Strategy" every five years through interministerial cooperation. The 5th National Biodiversity Strategy (2024-2028), established in 2023, includes action plans to protect national ecosystems by preemptively blocking the pathways of invasive alien species and strengthening tailored control measures for those already introduced. In addition, to strengthen on-site management of invasive species, a comprehensive alien invasive species management manual was released and distributed to each local government in 2024.

In 2019, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries revised the "Public Notice on the Designation and Management of Marine Ecosystem-Disrupting Species and Harmful Marine Organisms." This revision provides detailed criteria and methods for risk assessments to be conducted for the management of marine ecosystemdisrupting species. It also outlines procedures for designating disruptive species and establishing management measures for their investigation, research and mitigation. Based on these detailed guidelines, the "Monitoring Manual for Marine Ecosystem-Disrupting and Harmful Marine Organisms" was distributed in 2021, providing customized survey methods for target species.

4.3. Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems? {4.3}

☑ G=More than #

››› 3

4.3 Additional Information

>>> The Ministry of Environment (MOE) implements comprehensive management measures throughout the life cycle of alien species, from pre-introduction to post-introduction, to ensure their systematic management. Species that may disrupt the ecosystem upon introduction to Korea are designated as "alert" species to manage their indiscriminate introduction. For alien species in the early stages of introduction, nationwide surveys are conducted to understand their habitat and distribution patterns. The list of legally managed invasive alien species (IAS) is continuously updated through detailed surveys and ecological risk assessments (4 species added

in 3 years from 2021 to 2023). Continuous monitoring of designated IAS (38 species) is conducted annually to

track population fluctuations and habitat changes.

Monitoring results of IAS show that while some species are experiencing a decline in population or habitat, most are maintaining their population density and range. In particular, the Daegu Regional Environmental Office announced the capture of 328 nutrias (Myocastor coypus), an IAS, from November 2023 to June 2024 in the Nakdong River and Geumho River areas (61 locations in 6 cities and counties in Daegu and Gyeongsangbuk-Province). This represents a 35% increase over the 242 nutrias captured from March to December 2022, suggesting the effectiveness of extending the capture period into the winter season when food is scarce.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) is continuously working to remove the invasive species, moon jellyfish (Aurelia aurita) and Spartina alterniflora, to maintain the biodiversity of coastal wetlands and prevent the alteration of tidal flat habitats. As a result, 5.183 billion polyps of moon jellyfish have been removed nationwide from 2013 to 2023. The distribution area of Spartina alterniflora in Ganghwa tidal flat has decreased from about 30,000 [] in 2018 to 13,000 [] in 2023.

*Distribution of Spartina alterniflora on Ganghwa Island: 480□ in 2008 → 31,180□ in 2018 → 29,472□ in 2019 → 13,000□ in 2023 (Source: Marine Environment Information Portal, https://www.meis.go.kr/portal/main.do)

4.4 Has the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?{4.5} \square A=Yes

4.4 Additional Information

>>> The Ministry of Environment (MOE) is implementing projects to control invasive alien species in wetlands through the establishment of 5-year conservation plans for the management of Wetland Protected Areas. In 2023, the MOE worked with citizen scientists to survey and map the distribution of invasive alien plants in four Wetland Protected Areas. Since 2019, the MOE has introduced a management effectiveness evaluation for inland wetlands to assess the management of invasive alien species. As of 2024, evaluations have been completed for 7 protected areas (including 4 pilot sites in 2022 and 2023), and evaluations for all Wetland Protected Areas are expected to be completed by 2028.

Since 2016, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) has been evaluating the

effectiveness of Spartina alterniflora removal methods through pilot removal projects and monitoring. Based on the results, the MOF has expanded its removal efforts beyond the previous focus on stem removal to include methods such as mudflat turnover and root removal starting in 2020. For moon jellyfish, removal efforts have focused on polyp-dense areas in five regions, including Lake Sihwa, since 2012. Post-removal monitoring is being conducted to evaluate project effectiveness, and mid- to long-term plans for jellyfish polyp management (Phase 1: 2018-2022, Phase 2: 2023-2027) have been established to prevent mass outbreaks.

Section 3 - Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 5

The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective planning and integrated management

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3 and 5]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List? $\{5.1\}$ \square A=Yes

5.1 Additional information

>>> The ROK government implements detailed tasks for the continuous expansion and

strengthened management of Ramsar sites through the "Master Plans for Wetland

Conservation", which is prepared every five years under the Wetlands Conservation Act. The "Fourth Master Plans for Wetland Conservation (2023-2027)" uses the results of the nationwide inland wetland and estuarine ecosystem surveys conducted every five years to identify valuable wetlands. Priority for designation as Wetland Protected Areas and Ramsar sites will be given to areas with high connectivity to surrounding habitats based on the National Wetland Ecosystem Network (ecological axis) and areas adjacent to existing protected areas.

In addition, the National Comprehensive Investigation into Marine Ecosystems divides the country's coastline into two regions and conducts surveys every two years. Candidate sites for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are identified based on their ecological, scenic, and geological significance. Through this process, a total of 72 MPA candidate sites have been identified from 2006 to 2022. Among the local governments, Gyeongsangnamdo conducted research to investigate the ecological and humanities conditions of 47 coastal wetlands and identified 14 candidate sites for MPAs. 5.2 How many Ramsar Sites have a management plan? {5.3}

☑ E=# Sites

»» 26

5.3 How many of the Ramsar Sites are actively implementing their management plan? {5.4} \square E=# Sites

»» 25

5.4 How many Ramsar Sites are implementing management actions outside of formal management plans? {5.5}

☑ E=# Sites

»» 1

5.2 – 5.4 Additional information

>>> ROK has 26 Ramsar sites. Of these, 25 are designated as legally protected areas (21 Wetland Protected Areas, 1 provincial wetlands reserve, 1 provincial Ecological and Scenery Conservation Area, and 2 national parks). All of these sites have legally mandated conservation and management plans that are being implemented. The Ramsar site that is not a legally protected area (Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat) had a management plan developed and implemented by the Han River Basin Environmental Office in 2017.

* Ramsar sites with management plans in place and under implementation:

The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam(898), Upo Wetland(934), Jangdo Wetland(1458), Suncheon Bay(1594), Muljangori-oreum wetland(1847), Du-ung Wetland(1724), Moojechineup(1725), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat(1846), Mulyeongari-oreum(1648), Odaesan National Park Wetlands(1848), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Ungok Wetland(1948), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Han River-Bamseom Islets2050), Songdo Tidal Flat(2209), Hanbando Wetland(2226), Dongcheon Estuary(2269), Sumeunmulbaengdui(2225), Daebudo Tidal Flat(2359), Iangbang Wetland(2488), Mungucang Deling Wetland(2540), Buognaduma Wetland(2544)

Janghang Wetland(2488), Mungyeong Doline Wetland(2540), Pyeongdume Wetland(2544) Although Gangwha-Maehwamaereom (Ranunculus trichophyllus var. kadzusensis)

community(habitat) is not a legal protected area, it is an area that is actually managed and has been purchased through a citizen trust fund.

5.5 Have all Ramsar Sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (through formal management plans where they exist or otherwise through existing actions for appropriate wetland management)? {5.6}

If "yes", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites If "partially", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites If "planned", please indicate the number of Ramsar Sites

☑ C=Partially

»» 22

5.5 Additional information

Please provide the source links or upload the source documents here indicating the assessment tool used (e.g. Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), Resolution XII.15), and the source of the information. >>> 22 out of 26 Ramsar sites in the ROK are designated as Wetland Protected Areas, 1 site is designated as Provincial Ecological and Scenery Conservation Area, and 2 sites are designated as National Parks, all managed under legal frameworks. The ROK government conducted a Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 16 Wetland Protected Areas in 2016. Guidelines for MEE were established in 2021, and 3 inland Wetland Protected Areas underwent a 5-year cycle MEE in 2023-2024. MEE for all 31 Wetland Protected Areas nationwide is expected to be completed by 2028.

Marine Protected Areas are subject to annual management evaluations and mid- to long-term MEEs (once every 5 years). Annual evaluations include review of progress reports, interviews with local officials, and site visits. Mid- to long-term MEEs include quantitative assessments of management infrastructure, planning, resource allocation, processes, and outcomes, as well as qualitative assessments through stakeholder workshops. As of 2023, 25 marine protected areas, including 7 Ramsar sites, have undergone a mid- to long-term MEE.

* Moojechineup(1725), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Ungok Wetland(1948), The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam(898), Muljangori-oreum wetland(1847), Upo Wetland(934), Du-ung Wetland(1724), Hanbando Wetland(2226), Sumeunmulbaengdui(2225), Mungyeong Doline Wetland(2540), Daebudo Tidal Flat(2359), Suncheon

Sumeunmulbaengdui(2225), Mungyeong Doline Wetland(2540), Daebudo Tidal Flat(2359), Suncheon Bay(1594), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Songdo Tidal Flat(2209), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Jangdo Wetland(1458), Mulyeongari-oreum(1648), Dongcheon Estuary(2269), Janghang

Wetland(2488)

5.6 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {5.7} \square E=# Sites

>>> 14

5.6 Additional information

>>> Regional environmental offices and local governments establish wetland management committees to discuss and review issues related to Wetland Protected Areas under their jurisdiction. Currently, 14 wetlands have management committees.

* Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Ungok Wetland(1948), The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam(898), Upo Wetland(934), Mungyeong Doline Wetland(2540), Daebudo Tidal Flat(2359), Suncheon Bay(1594), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Janghang Wetland(2488), Odaesan National Park Wetlands(1848), Pyeongdume Wetland(2544), Du-ung Wetland(1724)

5.7 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)?

☑ E=# Sites

»» 26

5.7 Additional information

For example give the name and official number of the Site or Sites.

>>> Ecological Character Descriptions (ECDs) have been prepared for all Ramsar sites. For inland wetlands, detailed surveys of ecosystem characteristics are carried out for the designation of protected areas. After designation, further surveys are carried out every 5 years to assess changes in ecological characteristics. The results are compiled and published in reports. For coastal wetlands, 65 sites nationwide are subject to annual intensive surveys focusing on tidal flat ecology. The results of these surveys are also compiled and published in reports.

* The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam(898), Upo Wetland(934), Jangdo Wetland(1458), Suncheon Bay(1594), Muljangori-oreum wetland(1847), Du-ung Wetland(1724), Moojechineup(1725), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Ganghwa Maehwamareum Habitat(1846), Mulyeongari-oreum(1648), Odaesan National Park Wetlands(1848), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Ungok Wetland(1948), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Han River-Bamseom Islets(2050), Songdo Tidal

Flat(2209), Hanbando Wetland(2226), Dongcheon Estuary(2269), Sumeunmulbaengdui(2225), Daebudo Tidal Flat(2359), Janghang Wetland(2488), Mungyeong Doline Wetland(2540), Pyeongdume Wetland(2544)

5.8 Resolution VI.13 urges Parties to give priority to providing the Secretariat with maps and completed Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for all Sites designated for the Ramsar List, and to revise this data at least every six years. If your country has not updated its RIS as required, describe the challenges in updating RIS, particularly descriptions of ecological character.

>>> ROK is updating information for all its Ramsar sites.

Target 7

Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 3, 4 and 10]

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? $\{7.1\}$ \square A=Yes

7.1 Additional information

If "Yes", please provide the source links or upload the source documents here describing the mechanisms established >>> ROK has established a robust system for monitoring and reporting on the ecological character of its Ramsar sites, ensuring that any potential negative human-induced changes are promptly identified and addressed. For Ramsar sites designated as wetlands, the National Institute of Ecology conducts comprehensive ecological assessments through detailed surveys every 5 years. Key findings from these surveys are submitted annually to the Natural Ecosystem Policy Division

of the Ministry of Environment, the Ramsar Administrative Authority (AA) for ROK. This ensures regular review of the ecological health of these important wetlands.

For Ramsar sites not designated as Wetland Protected Areas, the relevant authorities conduct quarterly monitoring to observe ecological changes and other potential negative impacts. In the event of abrupt changes, reports are submitted to the Basin Environmental Office for immediate action. This proactive approach allows for timely intervention and mitigation of potential threats.

Coastal Wetland Protected Areas are also closely monitored through the National Marine Ecosystem Comprehensive Survey. Initially conducted every two years from 2015, the frequency was increased to annual in 2018 to improve early detection and response to rapid environmental changes such as climate change. This underscores ROK's commitment to adapting its monitoring strategies to address emerging challenges. In addition, all Wetland Protected Areas employ environmental monitors who continuously observe and report on ecological changes. This on-the-ground presence ensures that any alarming trends are identified and reported in real time, facilitating swift action by the authorities.

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? $\{7.2\}$ \Box A=Yes

7.2 Additional information

If "Yes" or "Some cases", please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has **not** made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat

>>> The ROK government has reported to the Ramsar Secretariat on the potential impacts of the Second Metropolitan Ring Expressway and Baegot Bridge construction projects on the Songdo Tidal Flat Ramsar site. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and Incheon Metropolitan City completed consultations in September 2023 regarding the route of the Second Metropolitan Ring Expressway project through the Songdo Tidal Flat Ramsar Site. The Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport are currently reviewing options to minimize environmental impacts as of July 2024.

In December 2021, during the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and Small Scale Environmental Impact Assessment consultations for the Baegot Bridge project, the Regional Environmental Office ordered a complete re-evaluation of the project. The order stipulated that the bridge route should avoid the Ramsar wetland. Siheung City filed an administrative appeal to overturn this decision, but it was denied. Subsequently, in 2023, Siheung City filed an administrative lawsuit against the Han River Basin Environmental Office, which was also dismissed in July 2024.

Section 3 - Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8

National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 21]

8.1 Does your country have a National Wetland Inventory (NWI)? {8.1} \square A=Yes

8.1 Additional information

For example, if "in progress" or "planned", by when will it be completed?

>>> The ROK established a National Wetland Inventory for inland wetlands in 2016 through the National Inland Wetland Survey. Spatial information such as location, boundaries, area, and dominant species are publicly available through the National Institute of Ecology's Ecobank (https://nie-ecobank.kr) and the Environmental Geographic Information Service (https://egis.me.go.kr/). This allows anyone to view and download the original data.

For coastal wetlands, an inventory of 63 wetlands has been compiled and is available through the Coastal Portal (https://coast.mof.go.kr/coastScene/foreshore/status.do).

8.2 If your country has an NWI, has it been updated in the last decade [2014-2024]? {8.2} \square A=Yes

8.2 Additional information

>>> The National Wetland Inventory was initially established in 2016, based on the results of the national inland and coastal wetland surveys and monitoring conducted from 2000 to 2015. The ROK has continuously updated wetland information through initiatives such as the Inland Wetland Monitoring Survey (2016-2020). Coastal wetland data are updated through biennial baseline and comprehensive surveys of marine ecosystems.

Survey data and reports from wetland surveys conducted by the National Institute of Ecology are available on their website

(https://www.nie.re.kr/achieve/achieveList.do?menu_nix=417kY30m&ach_gb=KEI). Reports related to the

National Marine Ecosystem Comprehensive Survey for coastal wetlands can be found on the Marine Environment Information Portal (www.meis.go.kr), operated by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation.

8.3 How often is the NWI updated? \square A=Regular intervals \le 6 years

8.3 Additional information >>> none.

8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information publicly available? {8.4} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

8.4 Additional information

For example if "partially" or "planned" by when will the data/information be made public? >>> none.

8.5 Please explain how the NWI data/information is maintained if at all? {8.3}

>>> The Ministry of Environment has been establishing and updating the wetland inventory through the National Inland Wetland Survey since 2000. The survey is conducted every five years. As of 2021, the fourth survey has been completed and a total of 2,704 inland wetlands being inventoried. * Increase in the number of wetlands included in the National Wetland Inventory

- 1st-2nd survey (2000-2010): 1,916 sites

- 3rd survey (2011-2015): 2,499 sites

- 4th survey (2016-2021): 2,704 sites

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries conducts annual detailed surveys of key listed tidal flats to manage and update their status information within the inventory.

8.6 Based on the information in NWI, if available, please provide the total area in square kilometres (km2) for the extent of wetlands (according to the Convention on Wetland's definition) for the year of available data and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Convention is a co-custodian. {8.6} \Box E=# km2

>>> 3,596.6

8.6 According to the Convention's definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows

Note: The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; "marine/coastal", "inland" and "human-made".

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the available information to fill in the form, specifying if it is partial or not complete.

Guidance on information on national wetland extent can be consulted at: https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidanceon-information-on-national-wetland-extent.

>>> 3,596.6km2

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
A Permanent shallow marine waters	
B Marine subtidal aquatic beds	
C Coral reefs	
D Rocky marine shores	
E Sand, shingle or pebble shores	
F Estuarine waters	
G Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats	2,443.2

Ga Bivalve (shellfish) reefs	
H Intertidal marshes	
l Intertidal forested wetlands	
J Coastal brackish/saline lagoons	
K Coastal freshwater lagoons	
Zk(a) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Marine/Coastal Wetlands total (km2) >>> 2,443.2

8.6 Inland Wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
L Permanent inland deltas	
M Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls	985.412
N Seasonal/intermittent/irre gular rivers/streams/creeks	5.28
O Permanent freshwater lakes	79.17
P Seasonal/intermittent freshwater lakes	0.49
Q Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes	1.08
R Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline lakes and flats	0.04
Sp Permanent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	0.01
Ss Seasonal/intermittent saline/brackish/alkaline marshes/pools	
Tp Permanent freshwater marshes/pools	23.77
Ts Seasonal/intermittent freshwater marshes/pools on inorganic soils	0.58
U Non-forested peatlands	1.01
Va Alpine wetlands	
Vt Tundra wetlands	

W Shrub-dominated wetlands	0.99
Xf Freshwater, tree- dominated wetlands	2.88
Xp Forested peatlands	2.78
Y Freshwater springs; oases.	0.008
Zg Geothermal wetlands	
Zk(b) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	

8.6 Inland Wetlands total (km2) >>> 1,103.5

8.6 Human-made wetlands

	Square kilometers (km2)
1 Aquaculture ponds.	0.03
2 Ponds	5.81
3 Irrigated land	1.59
4 Seasonally flooded agricultural land	0.15
5 Salt exploitation sites	0.03
6 Water storage areas	41.86
7 Excavations	0.03
8 Wastewater treatment areas	0.31
9 Canals and drainage channels, ditches	0.09
Zk(c) – Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems	0

8.6 Human-made wetlands total (km2) >>> 49.9

8.7 How has the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, changed since COP14 ? {8.5}

Ecological character is the combination of the ecosystem components, processes and benefits/services that characterize the wetland at a given point in time.

Please	select	only	one	per	square.	

a) Ramsar Sites	 □ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change □ N=Status deteriorated
b) All wetlands in your country	 □ P=Status improved ☑ O=No change □ N=Status deteriorated

8.7 Additional Information

>>> While the ROK has made significant progress in wetland conservation since COP14, with advances in wetland monitoring, protection and management, such as the expansion of Wetland Protected Areas and the inscription of coastal wetlands as World Heritage Sites, ongoing threats to individual wetlands remain.

Infrastructure development, including the construction of bridges and roads, continues to pose a risk of degradation to some wetlands. Despite these challenges, the overall ecological character of wetlands in the ROK has remained relatively stable.

8.8 On a scale of **1-5** rate the change in the ecological character of wetlands in your country, overall, since last COP

Please select only one per square.

a) Marine/coastal	 □ 5=major improvement □ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration □ 1=major deterioration
b) Inland	 □ 5=major improvement □ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration □ 1=major deterioration
c) Human-made	□ 5=major improvement □ 4=improvement ☑ 3=no change □ 2=deterioration □ 1=major deterioration

8.8 Additional Information

>>> Coastal wetlands have been assessed annually for ecological health through the Marine Ecosystem Comprehensive Survey. This survey includes vertebrates, invertebrates, marine plants, marine microorganisms, and some brackish/freshwater organisms. The total number of species surveyed increased slightly from 14,838 in 2022 to 15,796 in 2024. The area of coastal wetlands decreased from 2,482.0[] in 2018 to 2,443.3[] in 2023, but this change appears to be influenced by factors such as improved survey accuracy, natural topographic changes such as erosion and deposition, reclamation and shoreline maintenance, and tidal flat restoration.

*Coast Portal (https://coast.mof.go.kr/coastAdmin/research/ecology.do)

Inland wetlands showed a significant increase in area (from 734.6 to 1153.4) and

number of sites (from 2499 to 2704). However, this is largely due to expanded survey coverage and improved management conditions rather than an improvement in ecological character. Nevertheless, 90 of the 282 endangered species in the ROK (32%) are found in inland Wetland Protected Areas, which cover only 0.14% of the national territory. This suggests that the biodiversity conservation function of wetlands is being maintained.

Data for human-made wetlands are analyzed within the broader category of inland wetlands. Therefore, the ecological character of human-made wetlands is assessed as part of the overall assessment of inland wetlands.

8.9 What are your main needs in developing or updating an NWI to suport SDG Indicator 6.6.1 reporting for tracking global wetland status and trends? Please select below. {8.7}

	Ye s
a) Access to data and data acquisition standards	
b) Wetland delineation methods and approaches	
c) Habitat classifications	
d) Standardization in data interpretation methods	
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	
f) Resources	
g) Relevant skills	\checkmark

h) Data collection and mapping	
i) Collaboration	
j) Others	

8.9 Additional Information

e.g explain others as referred to in (j)

>>> Integrated management of the national wetland inventory is required through effective cooperation among the managing agencies of inland and coastal wetland wetland protected areas, inland wetlands (rivers, lakes, and mountain wetlands), coastal wetlands (tidal flats), and artificial wetlands (reservoirs, agricultural lands, etc.), such as the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Korea Forest Service, and the National Park Service. In nationwide surveys to update the wetland inventory, it is essential to combine remote sensing with field verification. In particular, the identification of mountain wetlands with multi-layered vegetation structures is difficult with remote sensing alone, requiring field verification. However, field verification can be inefficient due to limited accessibility and time constraints. Therefore, it is necessary to use the latest techniques, such as advances in remote sensing technology and verification of monitoring results using deep learning, to efficiently update and complete the inventory.

8.10 Please select from the list below the main needs of your country in using NWI results to implement COP mandates, e.g. conservation and wise use of all wetlands (Resolutions X.2, XIII.12, XIII.13, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIV.17 and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)) to achieve sustainable development.

	Ye s
a) Resources	
b) Relevant skills	
c) Data systems and management	
d) Application of NWI information for decision making (climate, biodiversity and sectoral planning/reporting)	
e) Regulatory framework and governance structure	
f) Data interpretation and communication	
g) Collaboration	V
h) Others	

8.10 Additional Information

>>> The establishment and management of an effective and open data system is essential to the effective use of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI). Publicly available wetland information, even without separate regulations, can deter indiscriminate wetland development. Currently in the ROK, the National Wetland Inventory is publicly available, but it is managed separately by the institutions that produced the data (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea Forest Service, etc.), and the data is not structured to provide an overview of

overall changes. Therefore, inter-ministerial cooperation is essential for data collection to establish an integrated national inventory, and cooperation among relevant ministries (including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) is essential for future data utilization for development and conservation planning.

Target 9

The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 9, 10 and 15].

9.1 Is a national wetland policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place?

9.1 Additional information

>>> The government revised the "Act on the Conservation and Use of Biological Diversity" in 2020 to diversify the target areas and activity types of the biodiversity management contract system, which was previously implemented in migratory bird habitats, in order to improve ecosystem services. After the revision, the existing five types of activities (i.e., wildlife feeding, fallow land management, change of agricultural practices, wetland creation, and land lease) were expanded to 22 types: 12 types that enhance supporting functions: eco-friendly farming, wildlife feeding, habitat creation, etc.; 5 types that enhance regulating functions: river management, riparian vegetation zone creation, reservoir creation and management, etc.; 5 types that enhance cultural functions: trail creation and management, invasive species removal, etc. In addition, support for Ramsar Wetland Cities encourages local communities to promote ecotourism, ecological education, and city brand value enhancement using wetland resources.

The "Act on the Sustainable Management and Restoration of Tidal Flats (Gaetbeol) and Adjacent Areas Thereof" classifies tidal flats into five management zones: 'Tidal Flat Conservation Zone', 'Tidal Flat Safety Management Zone', 'Tidal Flat Rest Zone', 'Tidal Flat Production Zone', and 'Tidal Flat Experience Zone'. Among these, tidal flats in the 'Tidal Flat Production Zone' that have a clear management entity, a specific management plan, and meet certain environmental standards are designated as 'Clean Tidal Flats'. To promote the sale and consumption of seafood produced in "Clean Tidal Flats", regulations on labeling, promotion and purchase preference for seafood produced in "Clean Tidal Flats" have been included. In addition, the 4th Master Plan for Wetland Conservation includes the establishment of a wetland ecosystem service evaluation system, the expansion of wetland ecotourism and Ramsar Wetland Cities, and the promotion of the discovery of various wetland promotional contents for the wise use of wetlands.

9.2 Since COP14 have any amendments to existing legislation or policies been made to reflect commitments under the Convention on Wetlands? {9.2}

9.2 Additional information

>>> The highest-level plan for wetland conservation, the "Master Plan for Wetland Conservation," has been updated and the Fourth Master Plans for Wetland Conservation (2023-2027) has been established. This plan includes the expansion of wetland protected areas, including Ramsar sites, the expansion of wise use of wetlands, and the discovery and expansion of wetland functions as mediators of carbon neutrality. In addition, the 5th National Biodiversity Strategy ('24-'28) has been formulated, which sets the achievement of more than 30% of protected areas as agreed in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) as a key goal.

9.3 Additional information

>>> The Act on the Investigation, Planning, and Management of Water Resources defines water resources facilities as those installed to maintain the functions of rivers, enhance their utility and reduce flood damage, including levees, estuary dams, flood control zones and drainage channels, as well as dams, weirs, seawater desalination plants and facilities to secure groundwater resources.

The "First Master Plan for National Water Management (2021-2030)" proposes the restoration of floodplains and the establishment of riparian buffer zones to restore the naturalness of river basins and ensure the health of aquatic ecosystems. It also mandates the creation of riparian areas, such as wetlands and riparian grasslands, which act as ecological filtration zones around rivers and lakes to purify non-point source pollution, provide habitat for organisms, and provide recreational space. The "Water Environment Conservation Act", in its article on "Purchase and Creation of Riparian Ecological Zones", allows the purchase of riparian wetlands and riparian lands, or their ecological creation and management, for the benefit of the water environment of rivers and lakes.

In addition, ecological river restoration projects create water purification wetlands and reservoirs for river disaster prevention, water circulation and water quality management.

9.4 Have communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {9.4}

☑ A=Yes

9.4 Additional information

>>> Information sharing, education, participation and public awareness in the planning and management of water sources and river basins are applied through the formation of River Basin Management Committees

(Han River, Geum River, Nakdong River and Yeongsan) under the Act on the Improvement of Water Quality and Support For Residents.

These committees include members from government ministries (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries) and relevant local governments, and implement various projects, including CEPA, to plan and manage water sources and river basins.

In addition, since 2020, Korea has established and implemented a governance system in the process of planning and implementing water resources management by forming water management committees for the five major river basins (Han River, Nakdong River, Geum River, Yeongsan River & Seomjin River).

9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {9.5}

9.5 Additional information

>>> In 2020, the ROK established the "2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy" and planned to promote low-carbon land use by restoring forests, tidal flats, and wetlands. As a follow-up measure, in 2021, it finalized the "Marine and Fisheries 2050 Carbon Neutrality Roadmap" and established a plan to absorb 1.362 million tons of carbon by 2050 through blue carbon, a marine carbon sink such as tidal flats and salt marshes. In addition, to maximize blue carbon sequestration, ROK has decided to restore 30^[] of degraded tidal flats by 2050 and create 540^[] of seaweed forest (marine afforestation) by 2030.

9.6 Additional Information

>>> The ROK government submitted the "2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)" to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2021. The plan set a target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 compared to 2018. To achieve this goal, the plan includes the restoration and creation of carbon sinks such as salt marshes, seagrass beds, and tidal flats, as well as ecological restoration of wetlands using riparian zones and floodplains around dams.

9.7 Additional information

>>> Through policy research for the introduction of the Agricultural Environment Conservation Program in 2018 (by the Korea Rural Economic Institute) and field demonstration research (by the Regional Activation Center), the Agricultural Environment Conservation Program will be introduced and implemented in 25 regions starting in 2019.

The agricultural environmental conservation program includes various activities covering various areas of soil, water, air, landscape, life, heritage, and ecology, such as creating and managing "deumbeong" (ecological water puddles), providing food for endangered bird species using farmland, using and maintaining traditional irrigation facilities, installing and managing water gates in rice fields, cleaning polluted rivers and reservoirs, and planting aquatic plants.

In addition, Korea's "Deombeong" irrigation system has been developed since the Joseon Dynasty as an essential water system facility for supplying agricultural water, especially in coastal areas where rivers are not well developed. The "Deombeong" irrigation system in Goseong, Gyeongsangnam-do, has 445 remaining "Deombeong" mainly along the coast. The "Deombeong" irrigation system was designated as the 14th National Important Agricultural Heritage by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in 2019 and is managed accordingly. It was also inscribed on the World Irrigation Heritage List in 2020.

9.8 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: {9.7} *Please select only one per square.*

a) agriculture-wetland interactions	□ C=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) climate change	□ C=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

c) valuation of ecoystem C c services C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C	C=Planned 3=No A=Yes
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9.8 Additional information

>>> a) Agriculture-wetland interactions

○ 'Effect of soil microbial diversity in paddy wetland under organic rice-fish mixed farming system' (2022) This study was conducted to provide information that can prove the effects of organic and integrated ecological agricultural practices on maintaining the paddy environment, increasing biodiversity, and sustainable conservation practices. The results of this study can be used as reference data on the effect of improving the function of rice paddy wetlands by implementing integrated ecological farming practices. And it is expected to be developed into an advanced technology to improve various ecosystem services, such as biodiversity support and carbon reduction in rice paddies.

 \odot 'Investigation on design aspects of the constructed wetlands for agricultural reservoirs treatment in Korea (2022)'

This study was conducted to suggest factors to be considered at the design stage and efficient operation plans through field surveys of 23 constructed wetlands built and operating in agricultural reservoirs. The results of this study are being applied in many places to improve water quality in agricultural reservoirs. \bigcirc 'An analysis of environmental factors of abandoned paddy wetlands as references and changes in land cover types in the influence area' (2022)

This study identified the ecological environmental characteristics of abandoned paddy

wetlands, which are undergoing wetland succession, through literature research and precise field surveys. It also analyzed the changes in land cover types within the ecological influence area over 40 years since the 1980s. This research analyzed the internal and external environmental factors of standard abandoned paddy wetlands and provided basic data for the conservation and restoration of abandoned paddy wetlands. b) Climate change

The National Institute of Ecology (NIE) conducted a study entitled "National Biodiversity Assessment for Establishing a Foundation for Climate Change Response" in 2022 to establish a domestic foundation for the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. Following the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems guidelines, the NIE conducted pilot assessments of wetlands, including two rivers (Geum River, Yeongsan River, and Seomjin River), one riverine wetland (Hanbando Wetland),

wetland protected areas (Upo Wetland, Junam Reservoir, Du-ung Wetland), and one urban wetland (Gwanggyo Lake).

c) Valuation of ecosystem services

Nationwide research has been conducted to assess the value of ecosystem services provided by forests, wetlands, and other ecosystem types. From 2018 to 2019, the NIE conducted basic research on the valuation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands. With a focus on wetland protected areas, this research included: 1) developing a framework for measuring and valuing ecological assets and ecosystem services, 2) analyzing causal relationships between "Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response" (DPSIR) for threats, changes, and policy responses, 3) designing a sustainability index for ecosystem services, 4) developing operational strategies for

payment for ecosystem services (PES). A contingent valuation method (CVM) was applied to the Upo Wetland (Ramsar Site No. 934) to determine its conservation value by valuing various wetland services. Ecosystem service assessments were also conducted for Suncheon Dongcheon Estuary (Ramsar Site No. 2269), Mungyeong Doline Wetland and Jeju Dongbaekdongsan (Ramsar Site No. 1947) to provide baseline data for PES implementation.

In addition, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries conducted research from 2017 to 2020 to assess the ecosystem services provided by coastal wetlands. The research estimated the annual economic value of regulating and cultural services provided by coastal wetlands (tidal flats) at KRW 17.8 trillion. This reflects the value of tidal flats as carbon sinks and the new value of cultural services gained from the designation of tidal flats on the southwest coast of the ROK as a World Heritage Site. Based on this, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries conducted research on the implementation of a payment scheme for ecosystem services in the marine and fisheries sector (2024) and is considering the development of a manual that includes target areas, types of activities to maintain and enhance ecosystem services, and ways to derive appropriate project costs.

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve and wisely use urban and peri-urban wetlands in line with Resolutions XI.11 and XIV.10? {9.8}

☑ A=Yes

9.9 Additional information

>>> The ROK Ministry of Environment has implemented several projects aimed at restoring degraded wetlands and improving habitat functions within urban areas. These projects are part of a larger effort to restore urban ecological corridors (ecological axes) and ensure the integrity of urban ecosystems. Daegu City implemented an urban ecological axis restoration project to connect the disconnected urban ecological corridor between Dowonji, the upper reaches of Jincheon Stream, and Dalseong Wetland, and to create otter habitat. Sangju

City selected the

Gaeun Stream-Mt. Nam section as the target site for the urban ecological axis restoration project and is promoting an urban ecological corridor restoration project to form a "blue-green network" connecting Gaeun Stream, Buk Stream, riverine wetlands, and the Nakdong River. Gwangyang City, through the "Gwangyangeup Hap River Urban Ecological Axis Restoration Project", aims to restore the important natural ecological resources of the Hap River in Gwangyang-eup, an area of high conservation value due to its high level of ecosystem diversity with the occurrence of various legally protected species such as leopard cats (Prionailurus bengalensis), Eurasian otters (Lutra lutra), Long-billed plover (Charadrius placidus), Austruca lactea, and Clithon retropictus. This project focuses on securing habitats for these species and creating an eco-friendly city where nature and people can coexist in harmony.

In addition, since COP14, the Ministry of Environment has designated Jangrok Wetland, an urban stream wetland in Gwangju Metropolitan City, as a Wetland Protection Area and is promoting the registration of Gapcheon Wetland in Daejeon Metropolitan City and Hwapocheon Wetland in Gimhae City as Ramsar Wetlands to conserve and manage urban wetlands. In 2012, Han River-Bamseom Islets in the Han River, located in Seoul, the largest city in the ROK, was registered as a Ramsar wetland. In 2021, Janghang Wetland, located in Goyang City, a metropolitan city in the Seoul metropolitan area, was also registered as a Ramsar Wetland.

In addition, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has inscribe the Seocheon, Gochang, Sinan and Boseong-Suncheon tidal flats, which are designated and managed as Ramsar wetlands, on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List in 2021. The ministry plans to support various utilization projects for sustainable use, such as ecological surveys and research, development of heritage tourism programs, and infrastructure construction, in order to conserve the biodiversity of the wetlands and their value as habitats for endangered migratory birds.

9.10 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII.21 and XIII.15? $\{9.9\}$

☑ A=Yes

9.10 Additional information

>>> The ROK government conducts nationwide surveys of coastal and inland wetlands under the Wetlands Conservation Act. These surveys help to identify new wetlands, continuously monitor wetlands of high conservation value, and conduct detailed assessments. In addition, the National Arboretum of Korea, under the Korea Forest Service, has conducted extensive field research on 1,264 mountain wetlands over the past 15 years (2006-2020). This research has resulted in the identification and listing of 455 highly biodiverse wetlands near forested areas, covering approximately 276.2 hectares.

At the local level, Chungcheongnam Province conducted an inventory of 6,652 small wetlands between 2014 and 2019. This included creating a GIS database to map their distribution and conducting functional assessments of 403 of these wetlands. Seoul has also been creating small wetlands in urban areas since 2004, using springs, valleys and other water resources to enhance biodiversity. These small-scale habitats are monitored regularly. In Jeju City, a community-based wetland survey was conducted in 2018 to collect information on the status and characteristics of small wetlands in villages, further demonstrating efforts to conserve these important ecosystems.

Target 10

The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 22]

10.1 Additional Information

>>> The ROK has national legislation that provides for the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of wetlands and wetland sites. The Wetland Conservation Act requires that local communities be consulted prior to the designation of Wetland Protection Areas. Similarly, the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act requires consultation with local communities in the designation of Marine Protected Areas. This law also requires the establishment of a Marine Protected Area Management Committee, which must

include local community representatives, to manage the designated areas. These provisions are further elaborated in the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries' Marine Protected Area Management Regulations and in local government ordinances. In addition, the Ministry of Environment's Ramsar City Accreditation Guidelines require Ramsar accredited cities to establish a local management committee composed of government officials and community members. This committee is responsible for making decisions and implementing all projects related to the Ramsar wetland. A prime example is the Marine Protected Area around Seonchon village in

Yongnam-myeon, Tongyeong City, where the local fishing community leads the management efforts.

10.2 If the answer to question 10.1 is "yes", have the guiding principles for considering the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of Sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used?

☑ A=Yes

10.2 Additional Information

>>> Both the Marine Protected Area Local Management Committees and the Ramsar Wetland City Local Management Committees actively involve local communities in decision-making and implementation processes. These committees promote projects that use traditional knowledge and expand cultural programs. For example, in the Marine Protected Area around Seonchon Village in Yongnam-myeon, Tongyeong City, which was designated for its valuable seagrass habitat, the local community's traditional knowledge of rice farming was used to improve seagrass transplantation. By using rice seedling trays, the success rate of seagrass transplantation increased significantly.

Similarly, in the Ungok Wetland Restoration Project, the traditional knowledge of local residents was instrumental in shifting from concrete embankments to restoring rice field ridges for wetland conservation. This approach maximized the effectiveness of the project and ensured the preservation of traditional practices. These cases illustrate how the ROK is integrating cultural values and traditional knowledge into wetland management for more effective and sustainable outcomes.

10.3 Have case studies on the participation of indigenous people in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled? (Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21) {10.1} \Box A=Yes

10.3 Additional information

>>> As mentioned above, there are successful cases where local people have used their traditional knowledge in wetland restoration projects, such as the Gochang Ungok Wetland Protected Area and the Seonchon Village Marine Protected Area in Yongnam-myeon, Tongyeong-city. On Jeju Island, the traditional knowledge of local communities about wetland use was incorporated into the development of the Jeju Wetland Inventory and its management strategies.

In addition, since 2020, the Wetland Center of the National Institute of Ecology has been conducting a project to identify and document traditional knowledge related to wetlands. This includes traditional management and use practices, fishing village customs, and cultural practices related to local communities. Since 2015, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has been implementing a program to designate and manage 'National Important Fisheries Heritage' to preserve tangible and intangible traditional fishing culture and indigenous knowledge accumulated over the years. Starting with the Jeju Haenyeo Fishery (traditional female divers), a total of 11 fisheries have been designated as National Important Fisheries Heritage. Among them, "Jeju Haenyeo Fishery" was listed as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2023. These initiatives demonstrate the ROK's commitment to recognizing and integrating traditional knowledge and cultural practices in wetland management.

10.4 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been applied? (Resolution VII. 8) {10.2} \square A=Yes

10.4 Additional information

If "yes" please list national legislation/policies and actions that consider the needs and participation of indigenous and local communities in wetland management at all relevant levels.

>>> Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act: This act requires the establishment of a Marine Protected Area Management Committee for each designated area. The committee must include representatives of local communities to ensure their direct participation in management decisions. This requirement is further strengthened by regulations of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and local government ordinances.

Guidelines for the accreditation of Ramsar sites by the Ministry of the Environment: These guidelines require the establishment of local management committees in Ramsar-accredited cities. These committees, composed of government officials and community members, are responsible for all decision-making and implementation of projects related to the Ramsar wetland.

Local wetland conservation ordinances: Several local governments, including Gyeongsangnam Province, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Gyeongsangbuk Province, Gwangju Metropolitan City, and Incheon

Metropolitan City, have enacted wetland conservation ordinances. These ordinances establish wetland management committees that include local community representatives, ensuring their participation in wetland management at the local level.

These measures demonstrate the ROK's commitment to incorporating the needs and perspectives of local communities into wetland management at various levels of governance.

10.5 Have traditional knowledge and management practices relevant to the wise use of wetlands been documented and their application encouraged $\{10.3\}$

10.5 Additional information

>>> Since 2020, Wetland Center of the National Institute of Ecology has been implementing a project to identify and document traditional knowledge related to wetlands. This includes traditional management and use methods, fishing village customs, and cultural practices associated with local communities. For example, they have restored the "deulsal," a traditional fishing tool used in Gimhae Hwapocheon Wetland, and recreated its operating principles using computer graphics. In addition, they have documented the manufacturing process of "Neupbae," a traditional fishing boat used in Upo Wetland (Changnyeong County, through video recordings. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs designates "National Important Agricultural Heritage" to preserve tangible and intangible agricultural resources of conservation value that have been passed down through generations. Among the 15 designated heritages is the Goseong Dumbeong Irrigation System in Gyeongsangnam-Province. This system uses "dumbeong" (small irrigation ponds) to provide water for agriculture. These ponds, which are essentially small wetlands created within agricultural lands, not only provide water, but also serve as

refuges and habitats for various aquatic organisms near rice paddies.

Since 2015, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has been implementing a program to designate and manage 'National Important Fisheries Heritage' to preserve tangible and intangible traditional fishing culture and indigenous knowledge. Starting with the Jeju Haenyeo Fishery, a total of 11 fisheries have been designated as National Important Fisheries Heritage. In particular, 'Jeju Haenyeo Fishery' has been inscribed on the list of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2023.

The Korea Traditional Knowledge Portal (https://koreantk.com) collects, documents and publishes traditional knowledge from various regions, including those related to wetland ecosystems. The information covers a wide range of topics such as traditional foods, medicinal practices, and technologies.

Target 11

Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.} [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 11, 12 and 13]

11.1 Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {11.1}

☑ A=Yes

11.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate how many Ramsar Sites and their names

>>> The ROK has conducted nationwide research to assess ecosystem functions and the value of ecosystem services provided by forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems. In 2018 and 2019, the National Institute of Ecology conducted research on wetland ecosystem services. Focusing on Wetland Protection Areas, this research included: 1) developing an "Ecological Assets and Ecosystem Services Measurement and Evaluation System," 2) analyzing the causal relationships between "Threats and Change Factors and Policy Responses" (DPSIR), 3) designing an ecosystem

services sustainability index, 4) developing operational plans for payment for ecosystem services (PES). A contingent valuation method (CVM) was used to assess the conservation value of various ecosystem services provided by the Upo Wetland (Ramsar Site No. 934). Ecosystem service assessments were also conducted at Suncheon Dongcheon Estuary (Ramsar Site No. 2269), Mungyeong Dolines Wetland and Jeju Dongbaekdongsan (Ramsar Site No. 1947), providing essential data for the potential implementation of PES schemes.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries conducted research on the ecosystem services provided by coastal wetlands from 2017 to 2020. The results estimated the annual economic value of regulating and cultural services provided by coastal wetlands (tidal flats) at 17.8 trillion Korean won. This valuation reflects the value of carbon sequestration and the cultural significance of the tidal flats along the southwest coast of Korea, especially after their inscription as a World Heritage Site.

11.2 Since COP14, have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to food and water security and hence poverty alleviation been implemented? $\{11.2\}$ \square A=Yes

11.2 Additional information

>>> A key example is the comprehensive amendment to the Fisheries Act, which came into force in January 2023. This amendment focuses on Total Allowable Catch, full life-cycle management of fishing gear, and improvement of the fishery reporting system. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC)-based fisheries management system helps prevent overfishing and ensures the sustainable use of fisheries resources, contributing to food security and the livelihoods of fishing communities. By managing fishing gear throughout its life cycle, the amendment aims to minimize marine pollution and damage to fishery resources, which are essential for food security and the livelihoods of those who depend on fishing. Improving the fisheries reporting system will enhance the monitoring and management of fishing activities, contributing to the sustainable use of fisheries resources and supporting the livelihoods of fishing communities.

11.3 Since COP14 have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to other benefits for human wellbeing been implemented? ☑ A=Yes

11.3 Additional Information

>>> Since 2023, the Korea National Park Service has been implementing projects to restore seagrass beds and salt marshes. These projects aim to improve carbon sequestration (with an estimated absorption of 316 tons of carbon dioxide per year) and increase marine biodiversity.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries is restoring salt marshes and subtidal seagrass beds in Geunso Bay, Taean County, Garolim Bay, Sinan County, and Seosan City, Seongsan area, Seogwipo City. These efforts are aimed at expanding the carbon-neutral function of coastal wetlands. In addition, the Ministry is promoting halophyte restoration projects in salt marshes in areas such as Gochang Tidal Flat, a Ramsar Wetland and World Natural Heritage Site.

LG Chem, a private company, formalized its plan to implement the "Blue Carbon Seagrass Habitat Restoration Project" from 2023 to 2026 and transplanted 50,000 seagrass seedlings near Daegyeongdo Island in Yeosu in 2023.

Kia Motors also signed a business agreement with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries to promote a blue carbon cooperation project in 2022, and is conducting pilot projects to restore natural vegetation in four tidal flats.

In addition, KT&G has been working with the National Institute of Ecology since 2023 to carry out restoration work to improve the Janggumegi Wetland, where habitats are threatened by soil runoff and erosion from surrounding roads. This project included restoring waterways, repairing eroded slopes, and restoring abandoned rice fields. In 2024, the Ministry of Environment designated Janggumegi Wetland as a Wetland Protected Areas.

11.4 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? $\{11.3\}$

11.4 Additional information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names >>> The Wetland Conservation Act requires the preparation of a "Wetland Conservation Plan" for each designated wetland conservation area. This plan includes 1) wetland surveys, 2) formation of conservation committees with stakeholder participation, 3) education and public awareness programs, 4) projects to improve the quality of life for local communities, 5) biodiversity conservation and management initiatives. Conservation plans for ROK's wetlands, including its 26 Ramsar wetlands, incorporate socio-economic values by balancing the needs of local communities with the long-term health of these ecosystems. These plans consider the continuation of traditional fishing and farming practices, promote ecotourism and other sustainable economic activities, and emphasize community education and awareness programs. This integrated approach ensures that wetland conservation benefits both people and nature, and contributes to the sustainable development of these valuable areas through integrated educational programs and branding strategies.

11.5 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in general? $\{11.4\}$ \square A=Yes

11.5 Additional information

>>> The Wetland Conservation Plan, which is prepared for wetlands designated as wetland reserves, presents management plans related to the region. In addition to organizing local wetland-related festivals, events, and programs, it also incorporates the cultural value of wetlands by identifying and reflecting on past regional uses.

For example, at Mulyeongari Oreum in Seogwipo City, Jeju Island, the tradition of driving cattle to the top of the oreum while practicing animal husbandry in the past, and at Ungok Wetland in Gochang County, the

restoration of farmland within the wetland and the direct participation of local residents in management are examples of approaching cultural values in connection with wetland management planning.

Especially in the tidal flats, which are ROK's representative coastal wetlands, traditional fishing knowledge and fishing community culture have been passed on by fishermen for thousands of years. In order to preserve this traditional knowledge and culture, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries respects the experience of fishing communities and encourages their participation in the establishment and implementation of wetland conservation plans for coastal wetland protected areas.

* Upo Wetland(934), Jangdo Wetland(1458), Suncheon Bay(1594), Mulyeongari-oreum(1648), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Seocheon Tidal Flat(1925), Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Dongcheon Estuary(2269), Sumeunmulbaengdui(2225), Janghang Wetland (2448)

Target 12

Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. [Reference Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 2, 8 and 11]

12.1 Have national wetland restoration targets been established? ☑ A=Yes

12.1 Additional Information

>>> Regarding coastal wetland restoration, the "1st Basic Plans on Management and Restoration of Tidal Flats (2021-2025)" sets a target of restoring a total of 4.5 of tidal flats by 2025. The "2050 Carbon Neutrality Roadmap for the Marine and Fisheries Sector" plans to create 540 of seaweed forest by 2030 and restore 30 of damaged tidal flats by 2050.

The Fourth Master Plans for Wetland Conservation (2023-2027) aims to continuously expand the budget for purchasing private land within protected areas to purchase 50% of all private land by 2027 and 9.18 by 2050. It also aims to complete 50% (0.691) of restoration projects for damaged areas to restore wetland ecosystem functions by 2027 and complete the restoration of 2.35 by 2050.

12.2 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {12.1} $\ensuremath{\boxtimes}$ A=Yes

12.2 Additional information

If "yes", please provide a list of sites, specifying wetland types

>>> The Ministry of Environment has been identifying candidate sites for natural environment restoration by evaluating the ecological value and restoration needs of degraded or polluted areas since the legal basis for promoting natural environment restoration projects was established through the revision of the Natural Environment Conservation Act. This project divides the country into five regional zones (Gangwon, Gyeonggi, Gyeongsang, Jeolla including Jeju, Chungcheong Province) and plans to conduct a 20% survey each year for five years starting in 2023. The restoration project will be linked to the survey plan of the National Natural Environment Survey. Through the survey, a total of four candidate sites have been discovered in the first year, of which the Janghang Wetland Restoration Project in Seocheon and the Wanggung Wetland Restoration Project in Iksan are the top priorities. In addition, in

the case of wetland protected areas, restoration projects for damaged areas within protected areas are being carried out on an ongoing basis.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, in its Guidelines for Tidal Flat Restoration Projects, sets the priority criteria for selecting target sites for tidal flat restoration projects as follows: areas with excellent biodiversity; wetland protected areas or adjacent areas; areas that include estuaries and can enhance ecological value or fishery resources; areas with significant economic impact with low-cost investment; areas with a scenic surrounding landscape and high potential for use as ecological education centers; and habitat of legally protected species, including marine protected species. The Ministry receives applications from local governments and selects target sites through deliberation.

12.3 Since COP14 have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been implemented? $\{12.2\}$ \square A=Yes

12.3 If applicable provide information on the extent of restored wetland area and types since last COP, in square kilometres

	Restoration planned m2 or km2	Under restoration	Total Restored
Marine/Coastal	14.65	14.61	0.04

Inland		
Human-made		

12.3 Additional information

Explain/clarify the data/statistics presented in the table above

>>> For coastal wetlands, a total of 10.75 of tidal flat ecosystems have been restored in 15 locations from 2010 to May 2024, with an additional 5.2 to be restored by 2026. Of this, 0.04 has been restored since COP14 and restoration of tidal flat ecosystems is underway at 13 sites.

12.4 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Resolution VIII.1) and Resolution XII.11 on Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention been implemented? {12.3}

☑ A=Yes

12.4 Additional Information

If "yes" or "partially", please indicate the progress in implementation

>>> Inje County, Gangwon Province, is promoting the ecological value of Yongneup, one of the most representative peatlands in the ROK, to the public. They have established exhibition facilities where visitors can learn about the formation process and ecological importance of peatlands, observe endemic plants and insects, and see the peat layer containing the representative geological layer of Yongneup. This helps to promote the value of Yongneup and peatlands to visitors.

The Korea Forest Service has been implementing a peatland restoration and conservation project in Jambi Province, Central and Eastern Sumatra, Indonesia, from 2019 to 2022, with a total investment of 3.3 billion won over four years. The project is being implemented in partnership with the Indonesian government, Wetlands International and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The restoration and conservation project includes damming canals installed in the peatland to rewet the peatland, restoring forests through appropriate planting, educating local residents to prevent damage to the peatland, and helping them generate income through

ecotourism.

Target 13

Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. [Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 10 and 14]

13.1 Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of wetlands when they are affected by key sectors including

Please select only one per square.

a) Energy	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Mining	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) Agriculture	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
d) Tourism	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
e) Urban development	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
f) Infrastructure	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
g) Industry	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

h) Forestry	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
i) Aquaculture	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
j) Fisheries	□ D=Planned □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

13.1 Additional Information

>>> a) Energy

The Ministry of Environment provides environmental assessment guidelines related to renewable energy development, such as the "Environmental Survey and Evaluation Manual for Offshore Wind Power Generation (2021)", "Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment of Onshore Wind Power Development Projects (2022)", and "Guidelines for Consultation on Environmental Impact Assessment of Offshore Wind Power Generation (2022)".

Through these guidelines, the Ministry provides guidance on the avoidance and careful consideration of locations for renewable energy development projects based on an assessment of the appropriateness of the development plan, targeting Wetland Protected Areas, core habitat for bird species, and biodiversity hotspots. This helps coordinate policies to ensure that renewable energy development and biodiversity conservation are in harmony without serious conflict.

In July 2022, the Ministry of Environment also revised the Guidelines for Consultation on Environmental Impact Assessment of Floating Solar PV Generation Projects. The guidelines take into account factors such as protected areas, legally protected species, the degree of impact on natural landscapes, and social consensus when selecting sites. This ensures that the environmental benefits of floating solar PV projects are fully considered, while minimizing impacts on water quality and aquatic ecosystems. These guidelines are reviewed every three years to ensure they are still relevant, and action will be taken to improve them. b) Mining

In areas designated as wetland protected areas under the Wetland Conservation Act,

activities such as soil, sand, gravel and stone extraction and mineral mining are prohibited. In marine protected areas designated under the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act, the extraction of marine sand, silica sand, soil and stone from public waters is also prohibited. c) Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in its "2023-2027 Agricultural, Rural and Food Industry Development Plan", plans to expand the selective direct payment system to compensate for income loss due to the implementation of low-carbon agriculture, and introduce carbon-neutral direct payments to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen environmental conservation. The plan also aims to increase the proportion of organic farming area (%) from 4.9% in 2021 to 10% in 2027, and to expand the consumption of environmentally friendly agricultural products through measures such as the integration of elementary school nutrition

support projects.

The Ministry of Environment plans to continue to implement the compensation system for agricultural practices that maintain the characteristics of rice paddies as wetlands, such as fallow land, winter flooding of rice paddies, and environmentally friendly cultivation, under the Ecosystem Services Payment System, which has been in effect since 2021.

d) Tourism

Since 2013, the Ministry of Environment has been operating the ecotourism zone system under the Natural Environment Conservation Act to overcome the damage to the natural environment and negative impacts on local communities caused by large-scale group tourism. As of 2024, there are 35 ecotourism zones designated by the Ministry of Environment, 22 of which are wetlands.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries also stipulates in the Act on the Sustainable

Management and Restoration of Tidal Flats (Gaetbeol) and Adjacent Areas Thereof that support projects can be carried out to promote tidal flat ecotourism.

e) Urban development

Under the National Land Planning and Utilization Act, Korea classifies national land into four major land use zones: urban areas, management areas, agricultural and forestry areas, and natural environment conservation areas, and manages and utilizes them differently according to their regional purpose. Among these, wetland protected areas, excellent wetlands outside protected areas, etc. are classified as natural environment conservation areas and are subject to strict restrictions on the construction of new buildings. f) Infrastructure

Korea operates a strategic environmental impact assessment system under the Environmental Impact Assessment Act. The target plans for strategic environmental impact assessment include, but are not limited to, urban development, industrial site and industrial complex development, energy development, port construction, road construction, water resources development, railway (including light rail) construction, airport construction, river use and development, land reclamation and public water surface reclamation, tourism complex development, mountain development, and specific area development. g) Industry

The Industrial Development Act emphasizes sustainable management that fulfills companies' environmental and social responsibilities. In addition, the Act on the National Trsut of Cultural Heritages and Natural Environment Assets provides support measures, such as tax incentives, to encourage industries to actively participate in the conservation of natural environmental resources, such as wetlands. h) Forestry

The Korea Forest Service has established the "6th Forest Master Plan (2018-2037)", a comprehensive plan for forest resources, forest industry, forest welfare, forest protection, forest ecosystems, mountains and mountain villages, international forest cooperation, and forest management. Accordingly, the Korea Forest Service is developing and disseminating a forest watershed assessment and diagnosis system to promote forest water resources, developing a "National Forest Water Resource Map" that embodies the spatial distribution of forest water storage functions, deriving management measures for forest watersheds upstream of water sources to prepare for abnormal extreme weather (e.g., floods, droughts, etc.), and promoting the mitigation of mountain stream drying and the conservation of forest biodiversity.

i) Aquaculture

According to the 2020 Amendment to the Aquaculture Industry Development Act, the

"Aquaculture License Examination and Evaluation System" will be implemented from August 2025. This system requires fish cage farms to undergo an examination and evaluation before the expiration of their license validity period. The degree of sediment pollution in the aquaculture farm is included in the main evaluation items, so efforts must be made to reduce tidal flat pollution during aquaculture operations. In addition, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has established basic guidelines for the preparation of licensed aquaculture development plans for waters under the jurisdiction of local government heads. From 2023 to 2024, when making licensed aquaculture development plans, it is stipulated that aquaculture farms should be developed in consideration of the natural environment and ecosystem when developing in areas designated as natural parks, wetland protected areas, etc. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has also issued basic guidelines for the establishment of licensed aquaculture development plans for water areas under the

jurisdiction of local government heads.

j) Fisheries

The "3rd Master Plans for Management of Fishery Resources (2021-2025)" has set five key tasks under the vision of "Sustainable Fisheries Resources, Abundant Fishing Grounds". First, it gradually expands the proportion of catch subject to Total Allowable Catch (TAC) management.

Second, it establishes new closed seasons and prohibited body lengths for declining fish species to rebuild depleted fishery resources. Third, it expands the scope and items of surveys, including ecological information on fish species and characteristics of coastal areas, to provide a basis for ecosystem-based fishery resource surveys and assessments, and establishes an integrated ecosystem-based resource assessment system starting in 2021. Fourth, it promotes the establishment of spawning and habitat grounds and seagrass beds that reflect the ecological characteristics of fish species and regional environments. It also promotes the use of

biodegradable fishing gear to improve habitat and environmental conditions in coastal areas.

Fifth, it promotes the establishment of a recreational culture linked to the protection of fishery resources, the establishment of a traffic light system for each species of fish, and the establishment of a comprehensive plan to promote autonomous fisheries management to spread a participatory culture of fishery resource protection. A complete revision of the Fisheries Act, which includes the management of fisheries reporting system, took effect in January 2023. The amended law aims to prevent overfishing through TAC-based fisheries management, and to prevent marine pollution and damage to fishery resources by introducing a full life-cycle management system and an owner tracking system (owner-registered) for fishing gear.

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact wetlands? $\{13.1\}$ \square A=Yes

13.2 Additional information

>>> ROK's environmental assessment system is categorized into a hierarchical structure based on the scale of policies and projects: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Small Scale Environmental Assessment (SSA). ROK uses this system to maintain and strengthen the sustainability of wetlands. SEA is conducted when making high-level plans (policy plans, basic development plans) that affect the environment. The SEA includes checking for consistency with environmental protection plans, identifying alternatives,

and conducting analyses to examine the appropriateness of the plan and the validity of the site from an environmental perspective. If the SEA target area includes areas such as ecological naturalness grade 1 and 2, wetland protected areas and areas within 500 meters of the boundary of wetland management areas, winter bird census areas, inland wetland survey areas, ecosystem change observation areas, mountain wetlands, lagoons, habitats of endangered species, and watersheds within 50-100 meters of the boundary of national and local rivers, it is designated as a key review area and is subject to special consideration.

13.3 Is there a legal requirement in your country to conduct environmental impact assessments for development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors (e.g., water, energy, mining and agriculture) that may impact wetlands? {13.2}

13.3 Additional information

>>> According to the "Environmental Impact Assessment Act", a total of 18 projects are subject to "Environmental Impact Assessment", and each of these projects has specific scope and area regulations defined by the law. However, even small-scale development projects that are not subject to the abovementioned Environmental Impact Assessment are required to undergo a separate Small Scale Environmental Impact Assessment under separate regulations, especially in cases where environmental protection is absolutely necessary, such as in wetland protection areas.

In addition, environmental impact assessments are conducted for cage aquaculture farms in accordance with the Fishing Ground Management Act. For projects that use and develop the marine environment, such as aquaculture and aggregate extraction, a Marine Use Impact Assessment must be conducted under the Marine Use Impact Assessment Act to predict and evaluate the appropriateness of marine use and its impact on the marine environment.

18 projects: Urban development, industrial site/complex development, energy development, port construction, road construction, water resources development, railway construction, airport construction, river utilization and development, reclamation and public water landfill, tourism complex development, mountain development, specific area development, establishment of sports facilities, establishment of waste treatment facilities, establishment of national

defense/military facilities, soil/sand/gravel/mineral extraction projects, livestock manure treatment facilities, etc.

Section 3 - Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

In responding to each of these questions, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide links, references/ upload documents where applicable and relevant.

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15

Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.

15.1 Has your country been part of the development and implementation of a Ramsar Regional Initiative?? {15.1}

☑ A=Yes

15.1 Additional information

If "yes", please list the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in which your country is actively involved. >>> ROK operates the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia (RRC-EA), which is responsible for wetland conservation and implementation of the Ramsar Convention in East Asia, and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) Secretariat, which is responsible for the conservation of migratory waterbird habitats in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. The ROK continues to provide partial support for the operational and project costs of these domestically hosted secretariats. The RRC-EA, located in Suncheon, is linked to 18 Ramsar Parties in East Asia, including China, Japan, Mongolia, Vietnam and Thailand. In addition, the EAAFP, which established its secretariat in Songdo, Incheon in 2009, is one of the nine major flyways in the world. It has a total of 40 member countries and organizations, including the governments of 17 countries such as the ROK, Australia, Indonesia, the United States and Cambodia, as well as international organizations such as the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF). *http://rrcea.org/about/

*http://www.eaaflyway.net/about/the-partnership/national-partnership/south-korea/eaafp_rok/partners_rok

15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? $\{15.2\}$

15.2 Additional information

If "yes", please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s).

>>> The Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia (RRC-EA) has been operating WLI-Asia (Wetland Link International -Asia) since 2016, and expanded it to WLI Asia-Oceania in 2022. With a total of 89 wetland centers from 17 countries as members, it supports capacity building through information exchange and mutual learning by organizing biennial conferences to share cases and information.

Separately, RRC-EA has been continuously operating the Wetland Fund since 2009 to support wetland conservation activities and World Wetlands Day celebrations in RRC-EA member countries. Each year it provides a budget of approximately USD 55,000 to support four wetland conservation, communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and research projects (USD 10,000/project) and three World Wetlands Day commemorative events (USD 5,000/event).

Target 16

Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 21].

16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {16.1}

Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below *Please select only one per square.*

a) At the national level	□ D=Planned □ C=In Progress □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) Sub-national level	□ D=Planned ☑ C=In Progress □ B=No □ A=Yes
c) Catchment/basin level	□ D=Planned □ C=In Progress □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
d) Local/site level	□ D=Planned □ C=In Progress □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.1 Additional information

If "yes" or "in progress" to one or more of the four categories above

>>> a) At the national level:

The Master Plans for Wetland Conservation, which is prepared every five years in accordance with the "Wetland Conservation Act", includes content related to the implementation of the CEPA program in its goals and plans to improve its effectiveness. The Wetland Center of the National Institute of Ecology, the CEPA focal point for the Master Plans for Wetland Conservation, participated as the responsible agency in the development of this plan.

b) At the sub-national level:

Metropolitan cities and provinces are encouraged to establish wetland conservation implementation plans linked to the Master Plans for Wetland Conservation, thereby promoting the implementation of CEPA programs. Gyeongsangnam Province, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Gyeongsangbuk Province, Chungcheongnam Province, Jeonbuk Special Self-Governing Province (under development) and Daegu Metropolitan City have established and are implementing wetland conservation implementation plans.

c) Catchment/basin level:

The ROK prepares a "Basic Plan for Management of Riparian Zones" every five years for each of the five major national rivers, which includes community communication, awareness, and cooperation plans. In addition, a "Comprehensive Basin Water Management Plans" is prepared every ten years for each river basin, which includes plans for conflict management and public participation.

d) Local/site level:

CEPA programs for each wetland are planned and implemented according to the

conservation and management plans established for each wetland protected area. In the case of Gyeongsangnam Province, in addition to wetland protected areas, the province designates and manages representative excellent wetlands and includes CEPA programs in their management plans.

16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) that focus on wetlands

have been established? {16.2}
a) at Ramsar Sites
☑ E=# centres

»» 18

b) at other wetlands

☑ E=# centres

»» 27

16.2 Additional information

>>> A total of 45 wetland visitor centers have been identified in ROK. 18 visitor centers operate in Ramsar wetlands, including inland and coastal wetlands.

* The High Moor, Yongneup of Mt. Daeam(898), Upo Wetland(934), Du-ung Wetland(1724), Jangdo Wetland(1458), Janghang Wetland(2448), 1100 Altitude Wetland(1893), Dongbaekdongsan(1947), Ungok Wetland(1948), Hanbando Wetland(2226), Suncheon Bay(1594), Mungyeong Doline Wetland(2540), Muan Tidal Flat(1732), Gochang / Buan Tidal Flats(1937), Jeungdo Tidal Flat(1974), Songdo Tidal Flat(2209), Goyang-Han River Visitor center. (total 18 sites)

There are 27 other wetland visitor centers in ROK in designated wetland protected areas.

* Nakdong Estuary Eco Center, Damyang Riverine Wetland Eco-tour Visitor Center, Sajapyung Wetland Center, etc.

In addition, ROK plans to further expand the establishment of World Heritage Centers and local visitor centers, with ongoing projects in Shinan, Seocheon, and Gochang Tidal Flats, which are part of the Korean Tidal Flats World Heritage Site.

16.3 Does the Contracting Party {16.3}

Please select only one per square.

a) ensure stakeholder participation in decision- making on wetland planning and management	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management?	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.3 Additional information

>>> a) The "Master Plans for Wetland Conservation", the designation of inland wetland protected areas, and issues related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention are finalized after deliberation by the "National Wetland Deliberative Committee". The National Wetland Deliberative Committee is the highest deliberative body for wetlands in the ROK, with participation from relevant government ministries, experts, and NGOs.

b) When designating wetland protected areas and marine protected areas, public hearings are held with the participation of local governments, environmental NGOs and local residents to collect opinions from stakeholders in accordance with relevant laws. Similarly, in the selection of outstanding wetlands, including wetland protected areas, as Ramsar Sites, public opinions are collected through consultations prior to designation.

In designated wetland protected areas and Ramsar Sites, local stakeholders participate in the formulation and implementation of wetland conservation, management and utilization plans through the formation of wetland conservation and management committees and local advisory bodies.

16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.4} \square C=Partially

16.4 Additional information

>>> Since 2007, ROK has operated the National Wetland Deliberative Committee as a deliberative and decisionmaking body for domestic wetland issues under the Wetland Conservation Act. However, its role has become ambiguous, and its operation is currently under discussion, especially as face-to-face meetings have been reduced since the COVID-19 pandemic.

For coastal wetlands, the "Central Management Committee for Marine Protected Areas" and "Regional Management Committees" established under the "Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystems Act" play a role in discussing and deciding on basic management plans, annual detailed implementation plans, and project performance evaluations. The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Development Committee, established

under the Framework Act on Marine Fishery Development, discusses and decides on major policies related to the marine environment, such as marine development.

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a national Ramsar/wetlands committee? {16.5}

☑ C=Partially

16.5 Additional information

>>> The Central Management Committee for Marine Protected Areas, the Regional Management Committees and Maritime Affairs and the Fisheries Development Committee are responsible for advising and making decisions on matters related to coastal wetlands.

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share the Convention's implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: {16.6}

Please select only one per square.

a) Ramsar Site managers	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
b) other MEA national focal points	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes
c) other ministries, departments and agencies	□ D=Planned □ C=Partially □ B=No ☑ A=Yes

16.6 Additional information

>>> a) Ramsar Site managers:

Ramsar site management is carried out by the Ministry of Environment and its affiliated organizations (regional offices) for inland wetlands, and by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries and its affiliated organizations (regional offices) for coastal wetlands. A very close system of information exchange is established with the Ramsar administrative bodies. Regional offices managing Ramsar sites (wetland protected areas) are required to prepare and submit protected area management cards to the central government. They must also submit the results of quarterly protected area monitoring to the central government on an annual basis.

b) other MEA national focal points:

National focal points are designated for each multilateral environmental agreement, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Depending on the issue, there are frequent exchanges of information and views between these focal points. In addition, at the local government level, the same person often serves as the focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention, which facilitates organic links between tasks.

c) other ministries, departments and agencies:

The ROK government is responsible for the conservation and management of nationally important or ecologically outstanding wetlands. Part of this responsibility may be delegated or transferred to local environmental offices, local marine offices, local governments, and specialized institutions. Therefore, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, the ministries in charge of wetlands, conduct working-level consultations with relevant related organizations, local governments, and institutions (e.g., National Institute of Ecology, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation) as needed for the management and

conservation of Ramsar sites and other protected areas.

16.7 Has your country organized any Convention on Wetlands-branded World Wetlands Day events, whether led by government or NGOs, since COP14? {16.7} \square A=Yes

16.7 Additional information

>>> The ROK government hosted a World Wetlands Day 2024 event with the theme "Wetlands and Us Coexisting, Hope for the Future" at the Gochang Tidal Flat, a Ramsar site. The event featured experiential booths on topics such as mobile marine environment classrooms, experiencing the sounds of tidal flats, and

making plastic substitutes, as well as a guided tour of the tidal flat botanical garden with ecological explanations.

Also in 2023, the World Wetlands Day was celebrated as a government commemorative event in Suncheon City, along with "Biodiversity Day" and "Migratory Bird Day". The event included various activities such as awarding those who contributed to wetlands and biodiversity, and a quiz event related to Ramsar Wetland Cities.

In addition, various other commemorative events were held, such as the "Mungyeong Doline Wetland Photo Exhibition" to commemorate World Wetlands Day 2023 in Mungyeong City, and the nationwide simultaneous winter bird monitoring conducted by the Korea Network for River and Watershed.

16.8 Did your country undertake any campaigns, programmes or projects to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife during the World Wetlands Days since COP14? {16.8} \square A=Yes

16.8 Additional information

>>> Ramsar Wetland Cities in the ROK launched a wetland restoration pledge campaign to celebrate World Wetlands Day in 2023. Mungyeong City held the "Mungyeong Doline Wetland Photo Exhibition," and the Korea Network for River and Watershed conducted nationwide simultaneous winter bird monitoring to commemorate World Wetlands Day in 2024. Gimhae City also hosted the "Become a Eurasian Black Vulture Friend Eco-Festival" to promote the importance of endangered species on World Wetlands Day.

In addition, various awareness-raising campaigns are voluntarily conducted at the local level. Gochang Ungok Ramsar Wetland has been running the 'Pride Campaign' since 2018, to promote the importance and value of wetland conservation to people visiting traditional markets. Suncheon Bay has been carrying out the 'Suncheon Bay Clean 365' campaign since 2020, involving Suncheon citizens in clean-up activities. The Kia Tigers, a domestic professional baseball team, has been holding an annual Ramsar Day event with RRC-EA since 2017, in line with the Ramsar Convention and recognizing the importance of wetlands. They convey the theme of World Wetlands Day to the audience and play a game in specially designed uniforms, which is broadcast nationwide, helping to raise awareness about wetlands.

16.9 Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {18.5} \Box A=Yes

16.9 Additional Information

>>> The Wetland Center of the National Institute of Ecology conducts basic surveys and research projects on the status of national wetlands, public awareness programs for various groups on the wise use of wetlands, and various policy support projects for the smooth development and implementation of national wetland policies.

The website of the National Institute of Ecology provides various literature and project

materials related to wetlands, as well as information on stakeholders. In particular, the National Institute of Ecology's International Ecological Information Bank provides information on the location and status of wetlands in the ROK, linked to various mapping services so that anyone can access this information at any time.

The distribution and related data of coastal wetlands are also provided through the Marine Environment Information Portal.

*National Institute of Ecology's International Ecological Information Bank

(https://nie-ecobank.kr)

*Marine Environment Information Portal (https://www.meis.go.kr/portal/main.do

Target 17

Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the Convention's fourth Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19]

17.1 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency ("donor countries")] Since COP14, has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management efforts in other countries? {17.3}

☑ A=Yes

17.1 Additional information

>>> The Ministry of Environment is establishing and expanding project-based Green ODA

programs to support developing countries in their efforts toward carbon neutrality and climate change mitigation, including water, waste, and green energy. To this end, Green ODA projects have been expanded to a scale of 12.4 billion Korean won annually since 2023. This includes 7.43 billion won for the "Integrated Water Resources Management and Climate Resilience Enhancement Project in Vulnerable Urban Areas of the Mekong Basin (2021-2024)" and 279 million won for the "Cambodia Hydrological Survey and Hydrological Data Management Capacity Building Project (2021-2023)".

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries plans to contribute a total of 12 billion won to the "East Asia Marine Plastic Pollution Reduction Project (2023-2028)" and is contributing a total of 4.474 billion won to the "Georgia Marine Survey Infrastructure Construction Project (2020-2024)". In addition, the Korea Forest Service is contributing a total of 2.26 billion won to the Degraded Forest Restoration Project in Sumpul River Basin Water Recharge Area, El Salvador Lempa River Downstream (2023-2027).

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has implemented the following projects: "Supporting Forest/Wetland Ecosystem Management and Local Community Income Improvement for Climate Change Adaptation in the Mekong Delta Region of Vietnam" (2024-2028, US\$12 million), "Establishing a Mangrove Forest Restoration Model for Strengthening Community Resilience in Indonesia" (2024-2028, US\$8.5 million), and "Reducing Marine Plastic Waste through River Waste Recycling in Indonesia" (2021-2025, US\$2.5 million). *https://www.odakorea.go.kr/kor/info/deptMain#deptMainTop

17.2 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency ("donor countries")] Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed the development of projects by the agency? {17.4}

☑ A=Yes

17.2 Additional information

>>> KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), which implements ODA projects of the ROK government, has established the "KOICA Environmental Mainstreaming Guidelines" that apply to the entire organization, system and project implementation process. The guidelines include various procedures and contents for minimizing environmental impacts and preserving the environment through evaluation and review processes at the planning stage.

The sector-specific environmental checklists are categorized into solid waste management, agriculture/irrigation facilities, road/rail/bridge/construction, water supply facilities, sewage and wastewater treatment, general building construction, afforestation, and others.

17.3 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance since COP14] Has your country received financial support specifically for national wetland conservation and management: {17.5} *Please select only one per square.*

a) from development	□ Z=Not applicable
assistance agencies of	☑ B=No
another country?	□ A=Yes
b) from non-national or	□ Z=Not applicable
multilateral development	☑ B=No
assistance agencies?	□ A=Yes

17.3 Additional information

for example from which countries or agencies >>> none.

17.4 Has any financial support from the national budget been provided by your country to facilitate the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands? {17.6} \Box A=Yes

17.4 Additional information

If "yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities.

>>> The ROK hosts the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and the Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia (RRC-EA), conducts training programs for East Asian countries in Incheon and Suncheon, and provides support for office rental, operational and project costs.

*RRC-EA (1.03 billion KRW), EAAFP (640 million KRW)

RRC-EA operates as a regional initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan in East Asia. Its main projects include the "RRC-EA Wetland Fund" and the operation of the Wetlands International -Asia-Oceania Network (WLI-Asia-Oceania).

In addition, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries is operating a cooperation program with IUCN to strengthen international cooperation for the conservation of marine ecosystems (2021-2024, 1.725 billion won). Major projects include training marine protected area managers in developing countries, providing on-site technical assistance to developing countries, and supporting the work of the Yellow Sea Working Group for the Conservation of Yellow Sea Coastal Wetlands.

The Ministry of Environment is implementing the IUCN Framework Partnership Program (2021-2024, 5.408 billion won). The MoE also signed a financial agreement with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to support

the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan and address climate change in the Asia-Oceania region through the management and planning of small grant projects, providing 300 million won annually for five years (2023-2027).

Target 18

International cooperation is strengthened at all levels

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the national Ramsar /wetland committee? {18.1}

☑ B=No

18.1 Additional information

>>> The National Wetland Deliberative Committee, established under the Wetland Conservation Act, operates in relation to domestic wetland protected areas and the Master Plans for Wetland Conservation. Therefore, the National Focal Points of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) do not participate or are not invited to participate in the committee meetings. However, within the Ministry of Environment, the expert staff member in charge of the Ramsar Convention also supports the work related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This allows for close coordination and awareness of trends and responses regarding both Conventions.

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Convention on Wetland's Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {18.2}

18.2 Additional information

>>> To facilitate effective cooperation and support for multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the Ramsar Convention, the ROK Government has established and maintains the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations. The Mission includes officials dispatched from central government ministries who serve as international cooperation officers. These officers attend meetings of international organizations, maintain rapid communication with relevant government

ministries on various agendas, and conduct on-site consultations.

Following the inscription of the Korean Tidal Flats on the UNESCO World Natural Heritage List, the Cultural Heritage Administration and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries have been jointly managing the property for efficient heritage management. The Cultural Heritage Administration is responsible for attending international meetings related to World Heritage, responding to various agendas, and carrying out liaison tasks.

18.3 Has your country received assistance from any of the following UN or other global and regional bodies and agencies in implementing the Convention on Wetlands since COP14? {18.3}

a) UNEP	
b) FAO	
c) UNECE	
d) UNFCCC	
e) Global Environment Facility	
f) UNDP	
g) UNESCO	
h) World Health Organization	
i) World Meteorological Organization	
ј) ІТТО	
k) The Convention's IOPs	7

18.3 Additional information

For example describe the support and indicate the amount of funding.

>>> Although it is not directly related to the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, the ROK received technical assistance from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in the process of nominating Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (including four Ramsar Sites: Seocheon Tidal Flat, Gochang Tidal Flat, Suncheon Bay, and Jeungdo Tidal Flat), for inscription on the World Heritage List in 2021. The ROK will continue to work with IUCN for the upcoming second phase of the inscription.

18.4 Has your country established international network(s), such as twinning arrangements, to facilitate knowledge sharing and training related to wetlands that share common features? {18.4} \square A=Yes

18.4 Additional information

>>> Wetland partnerships in the ROK are established primarily with wetlands that are internationally important waterfowl habitats or are connected along migratory routes. Major partner countries include Japan, China, and Singapore. For coastal wetlands, there have been phased cooperation programs with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

- · Junam Reservoir Kejo-numa wetland (Japan)
- · Janghang Wetland Zhalong National Nature Reserve (China)
- · Suncheon Bay Arasaki wetland (Japan)

· Yubudo Tidal Flat - Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (Singapore)

 \cdot Incheon Songdo Tidal Flat - Mai Po Inner Deep Bay (Hong Kong)

In addition, in 2018, ROK spearheaded the formation of the "Ramsar Wetland City

Accreditation Network" with 18 municipalities around the world that were the first to be designated as "Ramsar Wetland Cities." Currently, the city of Amiens, France, is the chair of this network. (By 2024, 43 wetland cities will be accredited and participating in the network).

The Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia (RRC-EA), supported by the Ministry of Environment and Suncheon City, has been conducting annual knowledge exchange and training programs on wetland management for wetland managers from RRC-EA member countries since 2009.

Currently, the Center also conducts national-level programs in local languages to overcome language barriers, and sub-regional programs (for transboundary wetlands) to promote cooperation in border areas.

In 2009, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries signed an MOU with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands) for the conservation and sustainable use of coastal wetlands. Following the inscription of Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats, on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2021, the MOU was renewed in 2023 to reflect recent changes, including the tidal flat heritage and response to climate change, and to expand the scope of cooperation. Joint activities will be carried out in various areas, such as policy, tidal flat and migratory bird monitoring, and education and outreach. For example, the "2024 International

Symposium on the Getbol World Natural Heritage of Korea" was held, bringing together about 150 domestic and international stakeholders to discuss sustainable coastal wetland management strategies. In 2024, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the United Kingdom, agreeing to cooperate in various areas, including the inscription and management of tidal flat World Heritage Sites, tidal flat restoration, climate change response and blue carbon. In accordance with the MOU, a training program to strengthen capacity for coastal seabird habitat restoration in Korea was jointly developed and implemented in September 2024. In addition, a Korea-UK expert seminar on marine ecosystem conservation was held in cooperation with the British Embassy.

18.5 Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {18.6} \square B=No

18.5 Additional information

>>> The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), established as a result of the Korean War, has restricted civilian access and minimized human disturbance. This has resulted in an exceptionally well-preserved level of biodiversity, including numerous wetlands. Although the ROK government conducted a survey of wetlands in the DMZ area several years ago, it has not been possible to update the survey for all wetlands due to the strict control of the area as a Civilian Control Zone and Military Zone.

18.6 Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {18.7} \square B=No

18.6 Additional information

>>> The Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (YSLME) project is a prime example of a transboundary coastal initiative involving the ROK. As one of the world's 64 large marine ecosystems and home to one of the world's four largest tidal flats (coastal wetlands), the Yellow Sea region faces multiple environmental pressures. To alleviate the degraded conditions and restore the health of the marine and

coastal ecosystems of the Yellow Sea region, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) strategically launched this international project with the participation of the ROK and China. Initiated in 2005, this project concluded in December 2020.

18.7 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {18.8}A=Yes

⊠ A= ies

18.7 Additional information

If "yes", please list which regional networks or initiatives

>>> The ROK government and 18 local governments participate in the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) for the conservation of wetland-dependent migratory birds. The Ministry of Environment and Incheon Metropolitan City support the establishment and operation of the EAAFP Secretariat in Songdo, Incheon.

The ROK also participates in the "Shorebird Network", the "Northeast Asian Crane Site Network" and the "Asia-Pacific Anatidae (Ducks, Geese) Network", which are part of the "Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (1996)". In addition, the ROK has signed agreements on the conservation of migratory birds with Russia (1994), Australia (2006) and China (2007) for mutual cooperation.

Target 19

Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

[Reference to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20]

19.1 Additional information

>>> The Ministry of Environment held a workshop with government, private sector and academia to celebrate World Wetlands Day in 2023. During the workshop, the Ministry shared information on the Fourth Master Plans for Wetland Conservation (2023-2027) and the outcomes of the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP14). The Ministry also collected opinions from experts, NGOs and local government officials during the workshop.

19.2 Does your country or institution implement capacity development strategies or actions for the Convention's Strategic Plan?

☑ A=Yes

19.2 Additional Information

>>> The Wetland Center of the National Institute of Ecology operates a nationwide network of wetland visitor centers. Through this network, the Center conducts capacity building training for stakeholders and provides customized consulting services in areas such as facility management, education, and development of educational materials. The Center also undertakes projects to strengthen the capacity of local communities in wetland protected areas and provides operational advice to Ramsar Wetland Cities. These efforts include workshops for local communities and the operation of citizen environmental scientist programs with the participation of residents of wetland protected areas, all aimed at promoting community capacity building for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

19.3 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes (Resolution XIV.11)? $\{19.2\}$

☑ A=Yes

19.3 Additional information

>>> In order to implement Resolution XIV.11 on "Wetland Education in the Formal Education Sector" adopted at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP14), the ROK established the Korean Wetland School Network. This network was established with the participation of 39 schools under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment, Ramsar Regional Center-East Asia (RRC-EA), Gyeongsangnam-do Office of Education, Incheon Metropolitan City Office of Education, Jeollanam-do Office of Education, and Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Office of Education. Its purpose is to formally integrate wetland education into the curriculum of regular educational institutions.

The Gyeongsangnam-do Office of Education provides biodiversity training for elementary and middle school teachers. The training aims to enhance teachers' understanding of different species, improve their professional skills, and raise awareness of biodiversity. For students, the office organizes field trips to wetlands in Gyeongsangnam Province, including Upo Wetland, at least once a year for third grade elementary school

students. It also supports wetland research clubs for middle and high school students and supports eight wetland schools.

The Jeju Special Self-Governing Provincial Office of Education designates "Environmental Education Leading Schools" to implement ecological and environmental education in conjunction with the school curriculum. It supports ecological and environmental clubs for elementary, middle, and high school students; provides themed ecological and environmental classes for kindergarten, elementary, middle, and high school students; and supports teacher research groups that focus on ecological and environmental education.

The Jeollanam-do Office of Education is strengthening the foundation of ecological transition education through various initiatives. These include ecological experiential learning linked to the curriculum, visits to carbon-neutral education programs that address the climate crisis, wetland schools linked to the curriculum, and training to enhance teachers' capacity in ecological and environmental education. It also organizes ecological and cultural exhibitions with the participation of the educational community and local residents. The Incheon Metropolitan City Office of Education is strengthening the foundation for

international exchange through wetland education. This includes the Incheon-Mongolia Ramsar Wetland Edutour, the Incheon-Mongolia Uvs Youth Exchange, the designation and support of wetland schools, and preparations for the establishment of the Asian Wetland School Network.

RRC-EA is contributing to the implementation of Resolution XIV.11 not only in Korea but also in Asia by establishing the Asian Wetland School Network.

19.4 How many training events for wetland site managers have occurred since COP14? {19.3} a) at Ramsar Sites

☑ E=# opportunities

»» 2

b) at other wetlands

 \square E=# Opportunities

»» 2

19.4 Additional information

>>> The Ministry of Environment conducted annual training programs on wetland conservation and management for wetland officials in central and local governments. These programs were temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, but resumed in 2023. The 2023 program focused on sharing information on the key resolutions of COP14 and the Fourth Master Plans for Wetland Conservation. In 2024, the program shared case studies on the application of nature-based solutions in wetlands.

Through this program, wetland managers, including government officials, can learn about national wetland policies and various projects for wise use of wetlands. The central government uses this program as an opportunity to communicate and disseminate key policy directions for national wetlands.

In addition, since 2008, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries has held an annual Marine Protected Area Conference. This conference serves as a platform for stakeholders, including local government officials and residents from across the country, to share and disseminate case studies and strategies for wise use of marine protected areas.

19.5 Have you (AA) used your previous National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {19.4}

☑ A=Yes

19.5 Additional information

>>> The ROK monitors change and progress using data from previous national reports as a baseline and incorporating national statistical indicators.